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Peppermint

Eun-Jin Seo

FOUR

Peppermint

Peppermint Volume 4
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Peppermint

Volume 4
Eun-Jin Seo

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

Peppermint

Your heart flutters and you're overwhelmed with the absolutely wondering feeling of your first kiss

Table of Contents

Chapter 1:	A Kid Named Young	7
Chapter 2:	Mary and EO	37
Chapter 3:	Hey Waits For EO	65
Chapter 4:	Skateboard Competition	97
Chapter 5 :	You're Just Too Young For Me	129
Chapter 6 :	The Happy Ending At Last	160
Special Side Story :	First Love	205

Get To Know Your Neighbor...

Hey

YOUR REGULAR GIRL WHO'S DOWN ON HER LUCK WHEN IT COMES TO A LOVE LIFE. HAVING A CRUSH ON THE UBER-POPULAR SINGER/ACTOR EZ CERTAINLY DOESN'T MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER, BUT SHE'S DETERMINED TO STEP INTO THE SPOTLIGHT OF HIS LIFE.

EZ

HANDSOME, FUNNY, RICH... AND DID WE SAY HANDSOME? HE MAY BE A LITTLE NAÏVE, BUT THIS TEEN IDOL'S GOT WHAT ALL THE GIRLS ARE LOOKING FOR, LENDING TO HIS ALREADY HUGE FANCLUB!

EO

WALKING TROUBLE, WITH SKATEBOARD MOVES AS SHARP AS HIS TONGUE. HE HAS A STRANGE ALLERGIC REACTION TO GIRLS, EXCEPT FOR WHEN IT COMES TO HEY. HE ALWAYS MANAGES TO POP UP WHEN HEY IS IN A JAM.

Mary

EO'S CLASSMATE WHO'S GOT THE HOTS FOR HIM, AND WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET HER MAN. SHE'S A MASTERMIND AT LAYING TRAPS, AND RIGHT NOW SHE'S GOT EO AND HEY AS HER TARGET.

Chung-sik

SMOOTHER TALKER EXTRAORDINAIRE, HE'S A MEGA-PLAYER THAT'S GOT ALL THE RULES DOWN WHEN IT COMES TO SNAGGING A GIRL.

Our Story So Far...

FOR THE FIRST 15 YEARS OF HEY'S LIFE, SHE'S HAD HER HEART SET ON ONE MAN AND ONE MAN ALONE, THE INCREDIBLY POPULAR TEEN IDOL, EZ, WHO ALSO ATTENDS HAKSAN HIGH SCHOOL. AND THOUGH EZ ONLY SEES HER AS A RELIABLE CLASSMATE TO HELP HIM REHEARSE HIS SCRIPTS, HEY'S FALLING FASTER FOR HIM EVERYDAY!

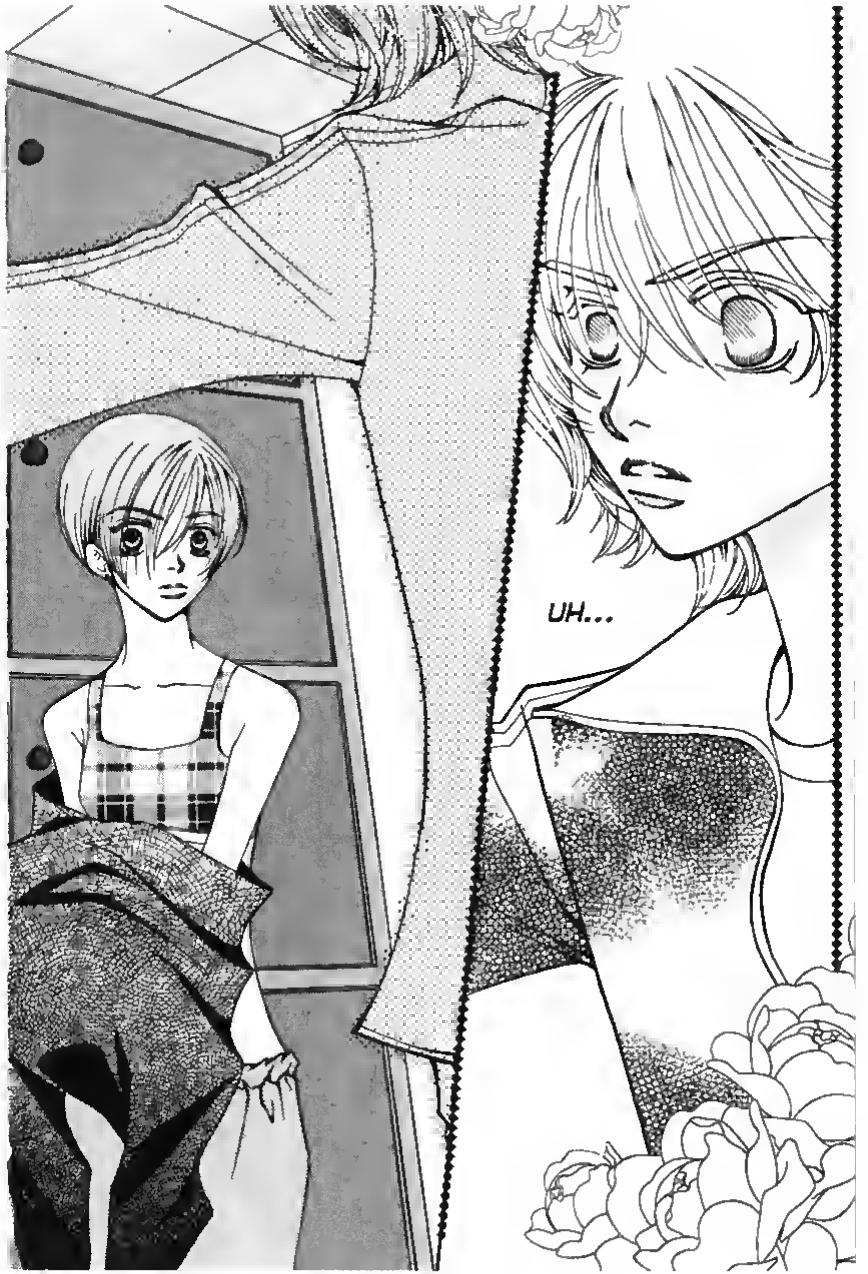
THIS ALL CHANGES WHEN EZ'S YOUNGER BROTHER, EO, STORMS ON STAGE! WHAT FIRST STARTED AS A SERIES OF INNOCENT TEASES HAS TURNED INTO SOMETHING MORE, AND IT'S CLEAR EO'S GOT HIS HEART SET ON HEY. HE'S WILLING TO FIGHT OFF SCHOOL TERRORS AND EVEN HIS OWN BROTHER TO STAKE HIS CLAIM, BUT HEY'S NOT ENTIRELY SURE HOW TO HANDLE THIS BALL OF TERROR.

THANKS TO MARY'S DEVIOUS PLOY, WHAT STARTED AS AN INNOCENT DOUBLE DATE ENDED WITH EO AND HEY'S BREAKUP! BUT WILL THE MONTHS THAT PASS HEAL HIS WOUNDS IN TIME FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR?

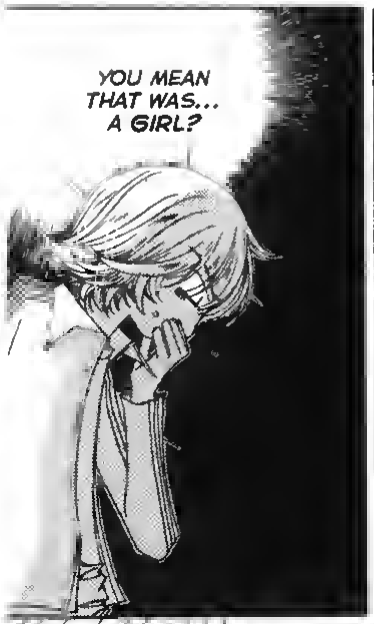
HEY'S NOT THE ONLY ONE GETTING A GOOD DOSE OF DRAMA. THERE WAS PLENTY OF FRICTION BETWEEN EZ AND HIS NEW PARTNER WHEN YOUNG KIM JOINED THE TEAM, BUT HOW WILL THINGS TURN OUT NOW THAT EZ'S FOUND "HE" IS ACTUALLY A "SHE"?!

Peppermint

Chapter 1: A Kid Named Young



WHY DO I GET THE FEELING I'M LOOKING AT SOMETHING I SHOULDN'T?
LIKE THERE'S SOMETHING... STICKING OUT..
GET OUT!!
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!
Oops!


YOU MEAN THAT WAS... A GIRL?

SO YOU FINALLY FOUND OUT.
DEAR ME.
YOU MEAN YOU ALREADY KNEW?

WHAT IS THIS? WHY AM I ALWAYS THE LAST TO FIND OUT?!
HA HA, IT'S PERFECT THOUGH, ISN'T IT?
Your mother thought it would be fun to...
TRUST ME, I DIDN'T SEE IT COMING, EITHER

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S A GIRL!

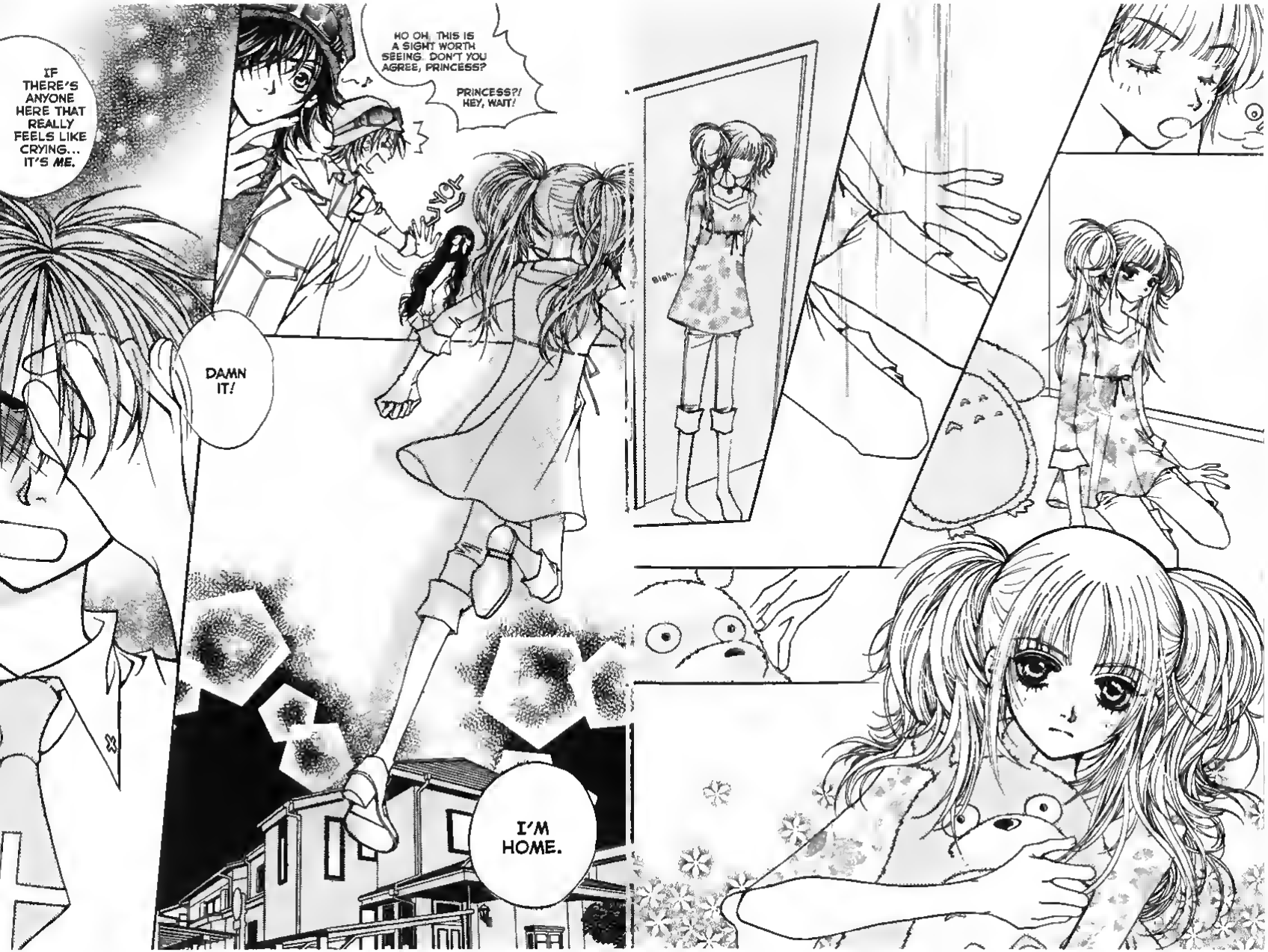
YO, I'M LEAVING.
HUH?
OH, AND...
...NEXT TIME YOU WANT TO USE THE DRESSING ROOM, TRY KNOCKING FIRST.
I NEVER KNEW BECAUSE SHE ALWAYS WORE LOOSE CLOTHING.
R-RIGHT.
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON.
뚜벅
뚜벅
Wait a minute!
HEY!
WAIT!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
...THAT YOU'RE A GIRL?!
YOU SAYIN' I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO BE YOUR PARTNER, AS A CHOREOGRAPHER?
AS A RAPPER?
WHAT'S IT MATTER?
NO? THEN, WHAT'S IT MATTER IF YOU KNOW I'M A GIRL?
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT--
AND I WILL BLOW OUTTA HERE ASAP!
LOOK, ANY TIME YOU WANNA TELL ME THAT MY LUNG CAPACITY OR PHYSICAL ENDURANCE IS NOT UP TO SNUFF CUZ I'M A GIRL, YOU JUST LET ME KNOW
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING!
ALL I WANNA KNOW IS, WHY DID YOU HIDE IT FROM ME?!
I THOUGHT WE WERE PARTNERS!
WHY?
TELL ME!

BECAUSE I DON'T...
...LIKE YOU.
LET'S GO, HOMEY.
WAIT! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
UH, OKAY.
EX
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
Heh heh...
TRUST ME, I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR THAT!

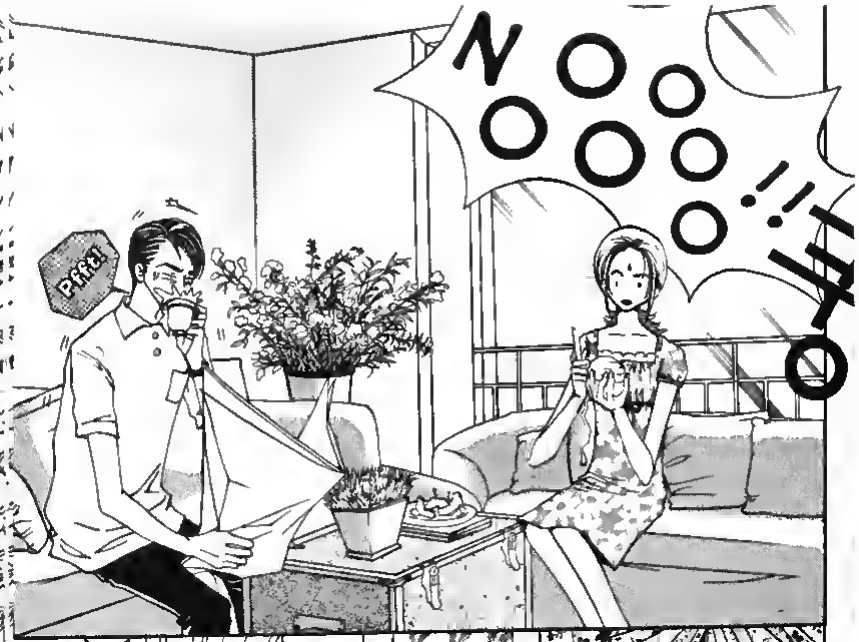
ARE YOU JEALOUS?
W-WELL...

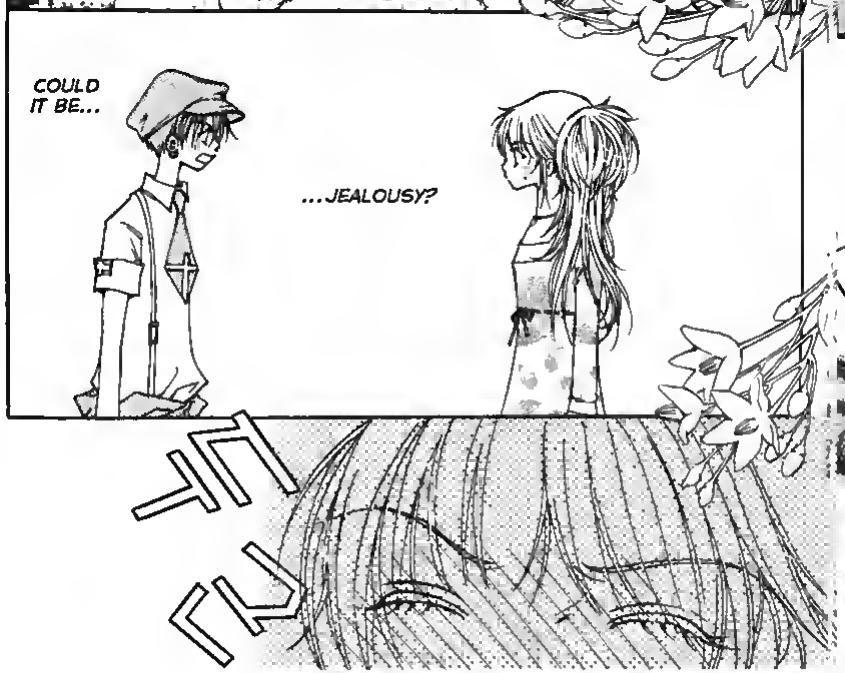
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M EVEN HAVING THIS CONVERSATION WITH EO!
NO WAY!!
SO? WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER?
OH NO!
GO ..
GO AWAY! DON'T COME NEAR ME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
DUDE, HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF "PERSONAL SPACE"?!
D-DON'T COME SO CLOSE TO ME!
Eek!
SO NOW YOU'RE GONNA TREAT ME LIKE I'M SOME KIND OF DISEASE?!

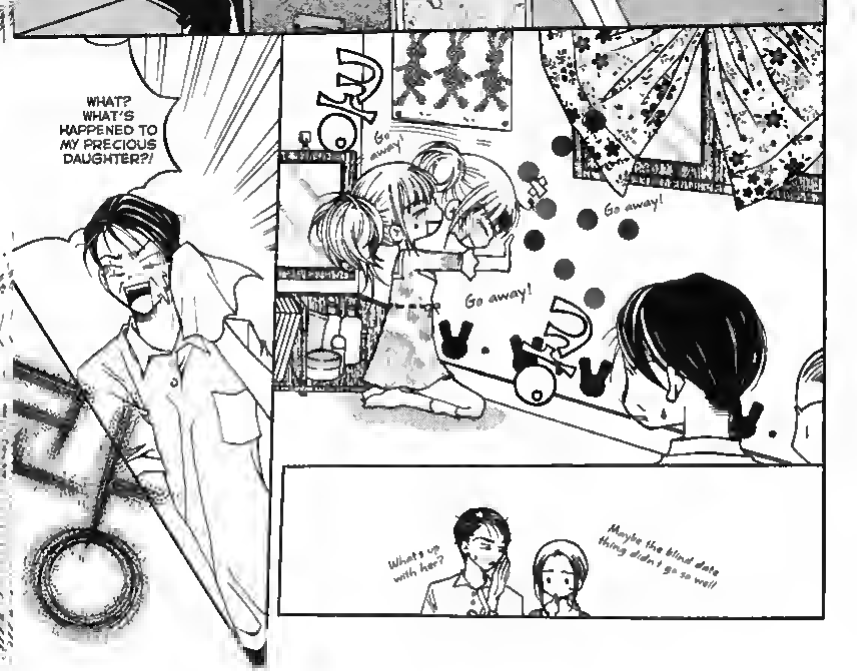
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? I'M ACTING SO WEIRD.
I THINK YOU'VE TOTALLY GOT THE WRONG IDEA.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT I'M JEALOUS. I ALREADY TOLD YOU!
I REALLY D-O N-O-T L-I-K-E YOU.
OKAY, I GET IT. QUIT DRAGGING IT OUT LIKE THAT
WHY AM I ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
AW, MAN. I'M STUPID FOR HAVING ASKED.
WHY DIDN'T I SEE THAT BEFORE?
MY HEART WON'T STOP POUNDING.
I KNOW YOU HATE TO SEE ME.
THIS CAN'T BE!
BUT THE MORE I THINK ABOUT IT, THE MORE IT PISSES ME OFF
IF THE ANSWER IS NO, JUST SAY SO. NO NEED TO PUSH THE POINT EVERY TIME WE TALK.
I'm pretty fragile once you get to know me.
WHO COULD EVER LIKE A BRATTY LITTLE KID LIKE YOU?
WHERE THOSE...TEARS?
WH-WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
STOP RIGHT THERE!
WHY ARE YOU MAKING THAT FACE? ARE YOU TRYING TO CONFUSE ME?!
AND WHY THE HECK ARE YOU ALWAYS RUNNING AWAY?
DAMN IT! WE'RE NOT DONE TALKING!

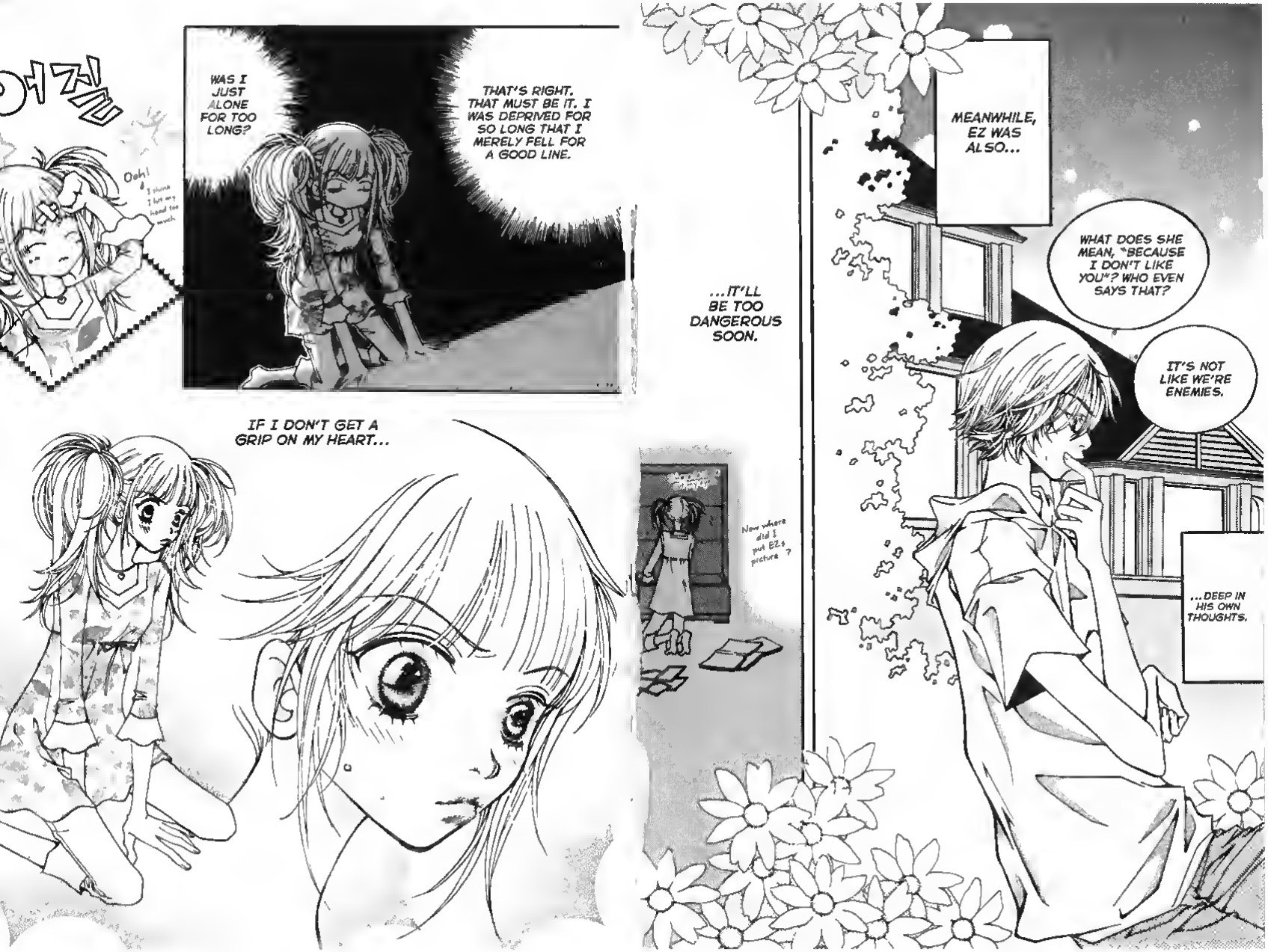

IF THERE'S ANYONE HERE THAT REALLY FEELS LIKE CRYING... IT'S ME.
HO OH, THIS IS A SIGHT WORTH SEEING. DON'T YOU AGREE, PRINCESS?
PRINCESS?! HEY, WAIT!
DAMN IT!
I'M HOME.
Sigh...

I DON'T LIKE...
...YOU MEETING WITH SOMEONE ELSE.


NOOOOO!!!
PIRU!


COULD IT BE...
...JEALOUSY?


WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY PRECIOUS DAUGHTER?!
Go away!
Go away!
Go away!
What's up with her?
Maybe the blind date thing didn't go so well


Ooh!
I think I hit my head too much.
WAS I JUST ALONE FOR TOO LONG?
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT MUST BE IT. I WAS DEPRIVED FOR SO LONG THAT I MERELY FELL FOR A GOOD LINE.
IF I DON'T GET A GRIP ON MY HEART...
...IT'LL BE TOO DANGEROUS SOON.
Now where did I put EZ's picture ?
MEANWHILE, EZ WAS ALSO...
WHAT DOES SHE MEAN, "BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE YOU"? WHO EVEN SAYS THAT?
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE ENEMIES.
...DEEP IN HIS OWN THOUGHTS.

EZ RYU!
AND I DON'T RECALL KNOWING HER BEFORE, EITHER...
PREPARE YOURSELF!
I CHALLENGE YOU TO A MATCH! TO THE DEATH!
THE ONE WHO LOSES WILL SUBMIT TO THE WINNER!
WHEN YOU SAID "MATCH" I DIDN'T THINK YOU MEANT THIS.
ALL RIGHT!
AND... GO!
AND REMEMBER, IF MOM WAKES UP, IT'S GONNA BE A PAIN IN THE BUTT!!
...
UP FOR ANOTHER ROUND?
He's surprisingly good
HAS HE DONE NOTHING BUT PLAY GAMES HIS WHOLE LIFE?!

ONE MORE MATCH!
Talk about tenacious
WHOEVER SCORES TEN POINTS FIRST WINS.
NO LETTING THE OTHER WIN! THIS IS A SERIOUS MATCH, GOT THAT?
You should at least explain why
WHATEVER IS FINE WITH ME, BUT DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS AT NIGHT?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE REASON!! ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT OR NOT?!
HERE I COME!

EO?

TEN...TO THREE!
ONE MORE GAME?
I...I WON.
Huff!
Huff!
STUPID. DO YOU THINK THIS IS A SPORTS DRINK COMMERCIAL?
BET YOU DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING FROM A GENTLEMAN LIKE MYSELF, EH?
MMPH! YOU'RE JUST QUICK!
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M SERIOUS ABOUT MAINTAINING MY STAMINA.
I practically live at the practice studio.
AND SNEAKY, TOO! THE WAY YOU AGREE SO EASILY SHOULD'VE GIVEN IT AWAY.
Heh!
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?

BECAUSE I'M HAPPY.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE SPOKEN TO ME.
27
EO, MY PRECIOUS BABY BROTH--
KNOCK THAT OUT. IT'S CREEPING ME OUT.
I'M NOT DONE BEING ANGRY AT YOU YET.
NOT LIKE ANYTHING I DO WILL CHANGE THE FACT THAT...
.. THE ONE HEY LIKES ..
...IS YOU.

YEAH, I KNOW, I KNOW!
*Has finally revealing his true feelings!
I THOUGHT SHE WAS RELUCTANT BECAUSE OF YOU
WAS I BEING TOO SIMPLE?
I HOPED THAT ONE DAY SHE WOULD FORGET ABOUT YOU AND LIKE ME INSTEAD. THAT'S WHY I HELD FAST.
IT WAS JUST AN ILLUSION.
SOMEBODY, PLEASE TEACH ME...
SHE REALLY...
...DOESN'T EVEN LIKE ME.
...THE RIGHT WAY TO TREAT A GIRL THAT I LIKE.
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR IT TO COME OUT SO MESSY LIKE THIS.
HEY IS ALWAYS LAUGHING SO BRIGHTLY IN FRONT OF EZ.
WHY CAN'T I GET THAT SAME RESPONSE?
SO NOW...

...YOU TWO ARE FREE TO DATE.
E-EITHER WAY, YOU TWO PROBABLY DON'T CARE ABOUT GETTING MY PERMISSION.
EO...?
BUT UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAS A DIFFICULT DECISION FOR ME, TOO.

I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT.
I WAS WALKING HAND IN HAND WITH SOMEONE.
Whaaat?!
Er...
EO...
THAT THING IS...THAT'S... A BIT...

I YEARNED TO SEE THEIR FACE, BUT I WAS TOO AFRAID, SO I COULDN'T.
THE HAND THAT HELD MINE WAS SO WARM AND COMFORTING.
WHO WAS IT IN MY DREAM?

Chapter 2: Mary and EO

SEPTEMBER 22, 2002 F.I.M'S FIRST INTERVIEW
WOW! HAS THAT GOTTEN AROUND ALREADY? HA HA...YEAH, I WAS CERTAINLY SURPRISED AS WELL.
I'M CURIOUS AS TO WHY YOU DIDN'T COME TO THE INTERVIEW TOGETHER.
SO, EZ, TELL US, HOW IS YOUR NEW FEMALE MEMBER?
...THAT'S A SECRET.
UP NEXT, HERE'S A QUESTION I'M SURE ALL YOU FANS OUT THERE HAVE BEEN DYING TO KNOW!
THERE'S QUITE A BIT OF GOSSIP GOING AROUND THAT F.I.M'S OTHER MEMBER IS FEMALE. IS THIS TRUE?
SORRY, FOLKS, BUT...
ONTO THE NEXT QUESTION, PLEASE.
R-RIGHT...
AHEM! THE GROUP NAME IS F.I.M. WOULD YOU MIND TELLING US WHAT IT STANDS FOR?
IT'S AN ACRONYM FOR THE "FUTURE IS MINE."
OKAY, AND THAT'S A WRAP!

YOUR INTERVIEW SKILLS ARE SO MUCH BETTER NOW. THE WAY YOU SLIP PAST UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTIONS LIKE A SNAKE SLITHERING SNEAKILY OVER A WALL...
ESPECIALLY THE LAST "IT'S A SECRET" PART. A MAJOR BLOW TO THE HEART!
But at the end you should've blown her a kiss.
SO, YOUNG, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR SEASONED PARTNER'S SKILLS NOW?
WHO'S FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS?
IT WAS SLIPPERY.
IT'S YOUR FAULT! ALWAYS BICKERING WITH ME ABOUT EVERY LITTLE DETAIL, OUR TEAMWORK IS SHOT.
NO, NO. I SHOULD BE PATIENT. I SHOULDN'T GET ANGRY AT A GIRL.
HEH. LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S GOT HIS PANTIES IN A KNOT.
WHOEVER SAID--?!

HEY, GUYS, WE'RE HERE! ♡
Tee hee!
Tee hee!
THERE'S A LIMIT TO MY PATIENCE
Grr...
HEY, KIDS. IT'S GREAT THAT YOU STOPPED BY, BUT TOO MUCH INTERRUPTION GETS IN THE WAY OF WORK.
We don't even have that much recording left.
IT'S COOL, YOUNG. I'LL DEAL WITH IT.
Squeeeeal!
They're practically living here now.
He's too small! That's the problem!
SLAM
UH...SORRY, BUT COULD YOU GIVE ME A MINUTE?
What the heck?! She's a monster!
YOUNG, WAIT!
HEY! HOW CAN YOU JUST LEAVE LIKE THAT!!
You should be ashamed!
CHOOSE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CHOOSE?
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA SHAPE UP?
YOU SAY THAT EVERY MINUTE MATTERS AND YET YOU KEEP PLAYING WITH THOSE KIDS WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET THIS ALBUM OUT?
BUT THEY WERE ONLY--
LISTEN. I KNOW IT DOESN'T AFFECT YOUR CONCENTRATION TO HAVE INTERRUPTIONS, BUT I CAN'T WORK WITH CONSTANT DISTRACTIONS.
I GET A NEADACNE JUST THINKING ABOUT OUR DEBUT, WHICN, IN CASE YOU FORGOT, IS LESS THAN A MONTH AWAY SO I'M TELLING YOU ..YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE.
EITHER YOU GO TO THE TRAINING STUDIO WITH ME NOW...
...OR WE PART AS A TEAM AND GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS.
HA HA HA! SO THAT'S HOW ONE OF THEM ENDED UP IN THE RECORDING STUDIO...
...AND THE OTHER IN THE OFFICE?
I HAD SOME IDEA, BUT THAT YOUNG KID IS REALLY SOMETHING!
GOOD! EZ NEEDS TO TOUGHEN UP. HE'S TOO SOFT FOR A BOY!
IT'S GOOD HE'S FINALLY FOUND HIS MATCH. DON'T YOU AGREE, MAHAGER?

IT'S NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT. THINGS ARE MORE SERIOUS THAN I THOUGHT. THEY CAN'T EVEN INTERVIEW TOGETHER.
THE RELEASE DATE FOR THEIR ALBUM IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER BUT YOUNG IS ALWAYS PICKING FIGHTS AND EZ IS ALWAYS SULKING SO THEY CAN'T EVEN TALK!
EITHER WAY, THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR EZ.
A STRONG PARTNER WILL MAKE UP FOR HIS FATAL WEAKNESS.
FATAL WEAK-NESS? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT IF THEY REALLY BREAK UP BECAUSE OF THIS?
YOU'RE NOT THAT DIFFERENT FROM THEM, YOURSELF, YOU KNOW.

LOOK, I'M A BUSINESS-WOMAN. EVEN IF HE IS MY SON, IF HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY MARKET VALUE, I JUST CAN'T INVEST IN HIM.

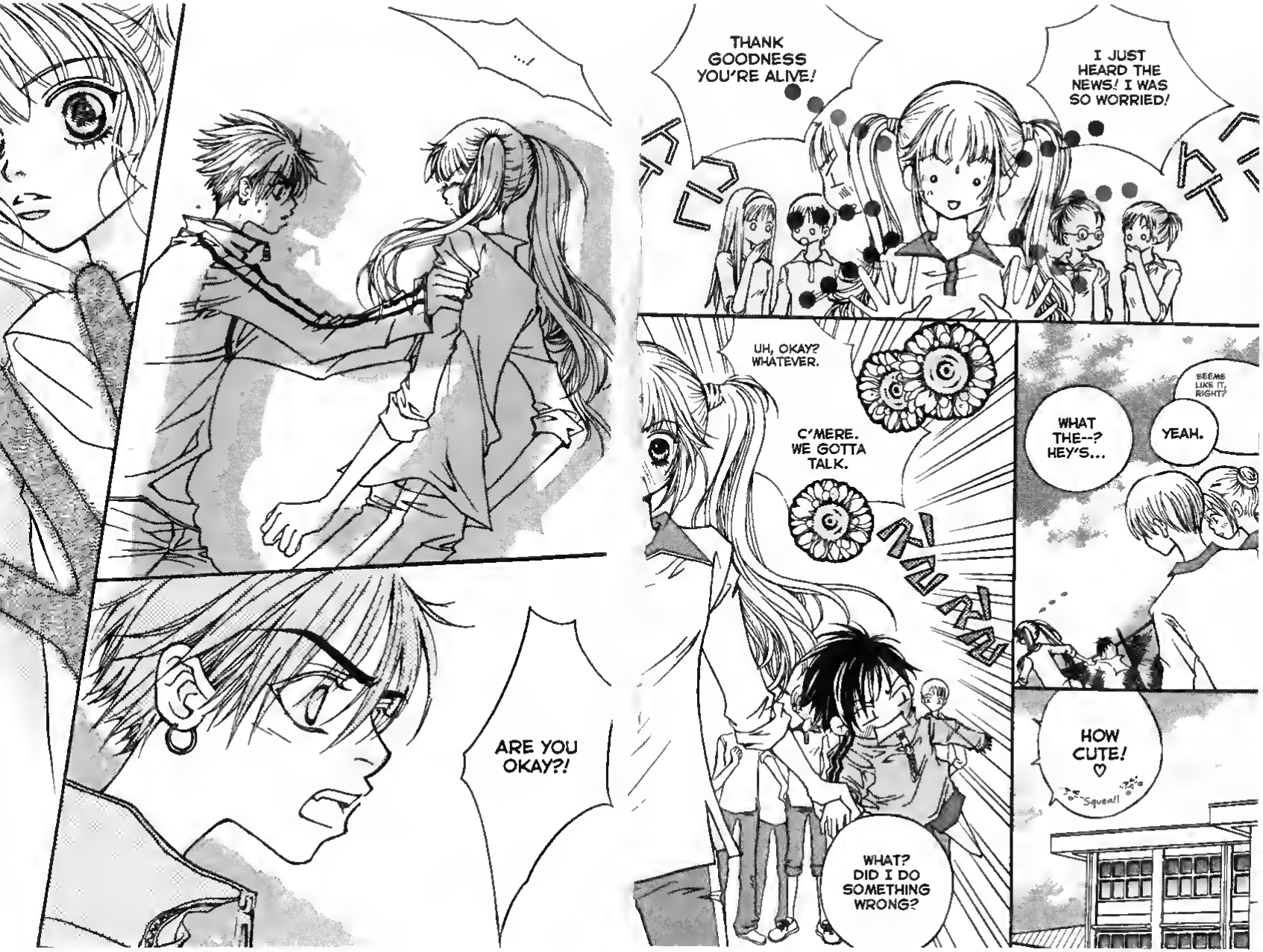
TALENT ISN'T EVERYTHING. WITHOUT THE RIGHT DISPOSITION, HE CAN'T RISE TO THE TOP.

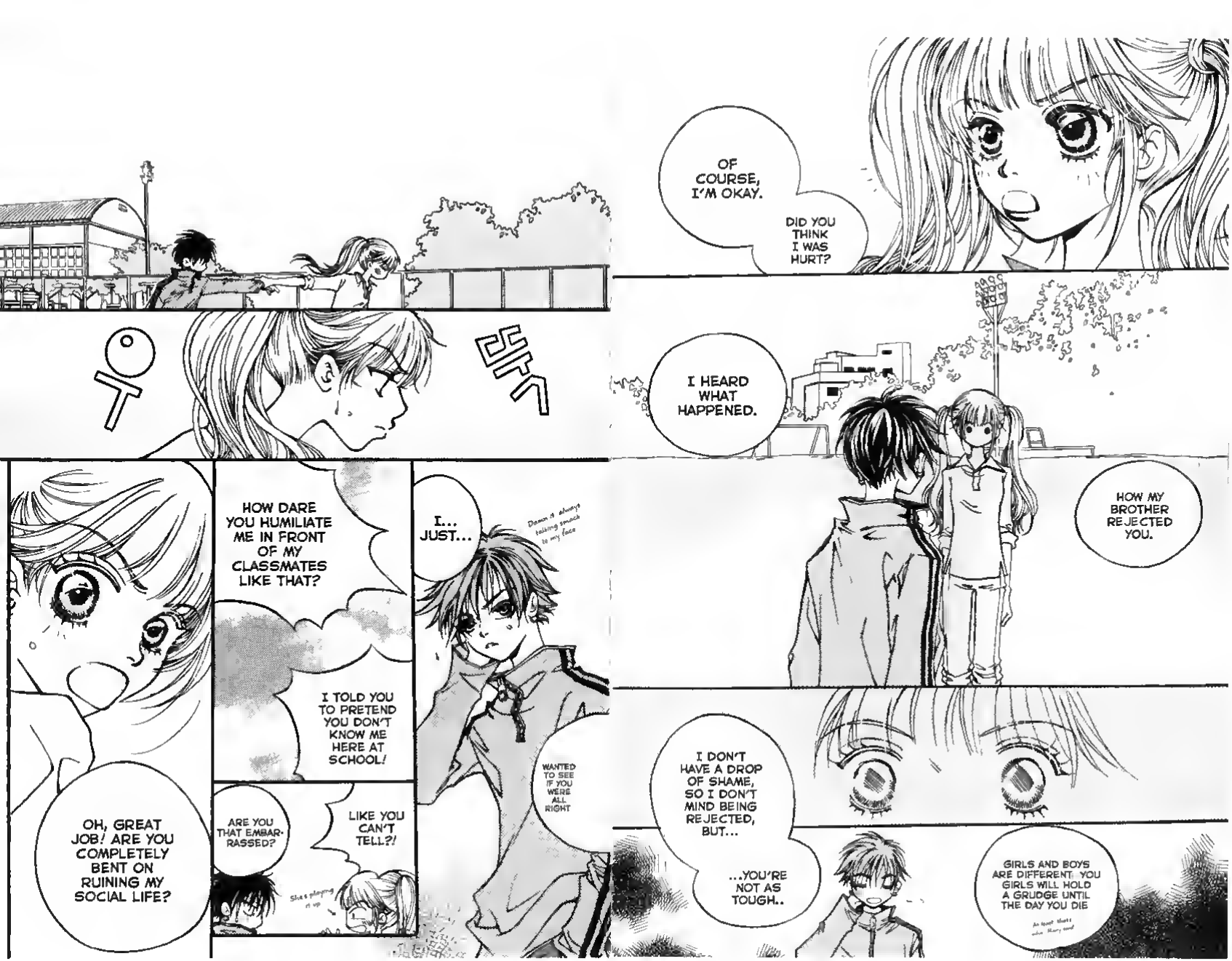
"QUIT WASTING OUR TIME DEALING WITH THOSE KIDS!"

I'M SO UPSET, BUT SHE'S RIGHT.

BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? IT'S NOT LIKE IT'LL KILL ME TO BE NICE TO THEM.

YEAH. I DON'T FEEL SO WELL. I WAS HOPING I COULD REST IN THE CLASSROOM.
THAT MIGHT BE A PROBLEM. TWO OTHER GIRLS HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO SKIP
EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PARTICIPATE, YOU SHOULD STILL GO OUTSIDE.
YES, MA'AM, I UNDER-STAND.
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE! BECAUSE TODAY IS THE UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S ATHLETIC MEET, WE'LL BE HAVING A FREE GYM CLASS STAY OUT OF THE WAY OF COMPETITORS AND HAVE FUN, OKAY?
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO GO OUT!
ARE YOU SICK?
I'm okay now.
YOU WANT TO REST?
Woo-hoo!
I'll be reporting any deserters!
WOW, LOOK AT 'EM GO!
I can't believe we used to be that young, too
THEY MUST BE TRAINING FOR THE MARATHON.
THERE'S NO WAY I'LL RUN INTO HIM, RIGHT?
NO. BUT IT'S STILL A POSSIBILITY. WHAT AM I GOING TO SAY IF I SEE HIM?!
HEE HEE! CHECK OUT THAT CUTIE OVER THERE!
WHAT? WHERE?
THE BOY IN THE FRONT.
Though he's so short
AH! HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY!
8
Please don't find Please don't find
Should I run?
HEY
LOOK. ISN'T HE--
HUH?
HE'S RUNNING STRAIGHT FOR US!

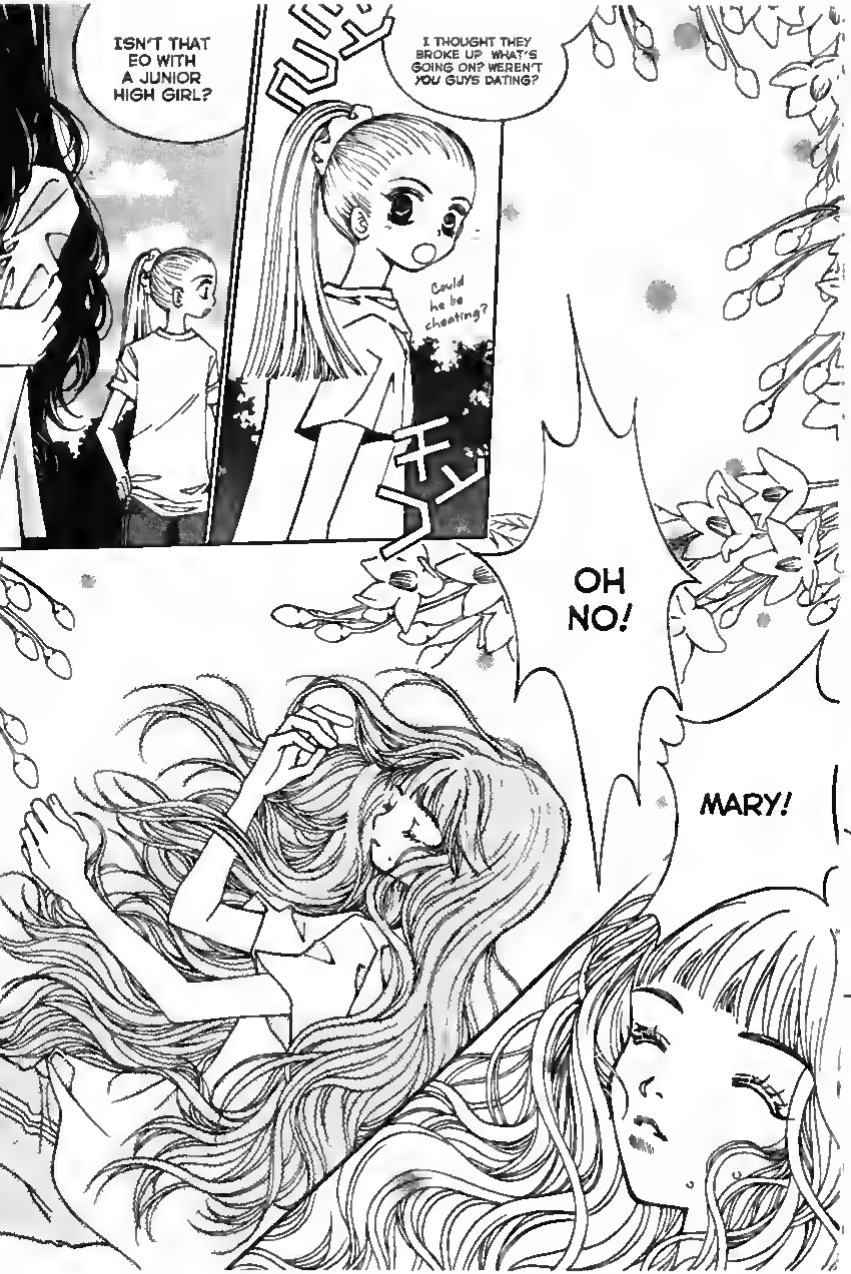

...!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALIVE!
I JUST HEARD THE NEWS! I WAS SO WORRIED!
UH, OKAY? WHATEVER.
C'MERE. WE GOTTA TALK.
WHAT? DID I DO SOMETHING WRONG?
WHAT THE--? HEY'S...
SEEMS LIKE IT, RIGHT?
YEAH.
HOW CUTE! ♡
-Squeal!


OF COURSE, I'M OKAY.
DID YOU THINK I WAS HURT?
I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED.
HOW MY BROTHER REJECTED YOU.
I DON'T HAVE A DROP OF SHAME, SO I DON'T MIND BEING REJECTED, BUT...
...YOU'RE NOT AS TOUGH..
GIRLS AND BOYS ARE DIFFERENT. YOU GIRLS WILL HOLD A GRUDGE UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE
At least that's what Mary said
OH, GREAT JOB! ARE YOU COMPLETELY BENT ON RUINING MY SOCIAL LIFE?
HOW DARE YOU HUMILIATE ME IN FRONT OF MY CLASSMATES LIKE THAT?
I TOLD YOU TO PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW ME HERE AT SCHOOL!
ARE YOU THAT EMBARRASSED?
LIKE YOU CAN'T TELL?!
She's playing it up
I... JUST...
Damn it always taking smack to my face
WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE ALL RIGHT

THIS IS NO TIME FOR YOU TO BE WORRYING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE!
I DON'T DESERVE IT, AFTER ALL THE CRAP I DID TO YOU!
DON'T BE STUPID! THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING!
S-SO WHAT?
DID YOU HOPE THAT I WOULD DIE FROM DISAPPOINTMENT?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT SCHOOL THE PAST FEW DAYS.
Bingo.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WORRIED I WAS?! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE DEVASTATED!
I PICTURED YOU WEEPING ON YOUR BEDROOM FLOOR, HOLDING HIS FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH OR SMACKING YOUR HEAD AGAINST THE WALL OR SOMETHING.
PFF! AS IF! I'M NOT THAT DESPERATE!
SO, YOU'RE REALLY OKAY?
Y-YES!
OKAY, THEN.

THAT'S GREAT!
I'm glad I was wrong

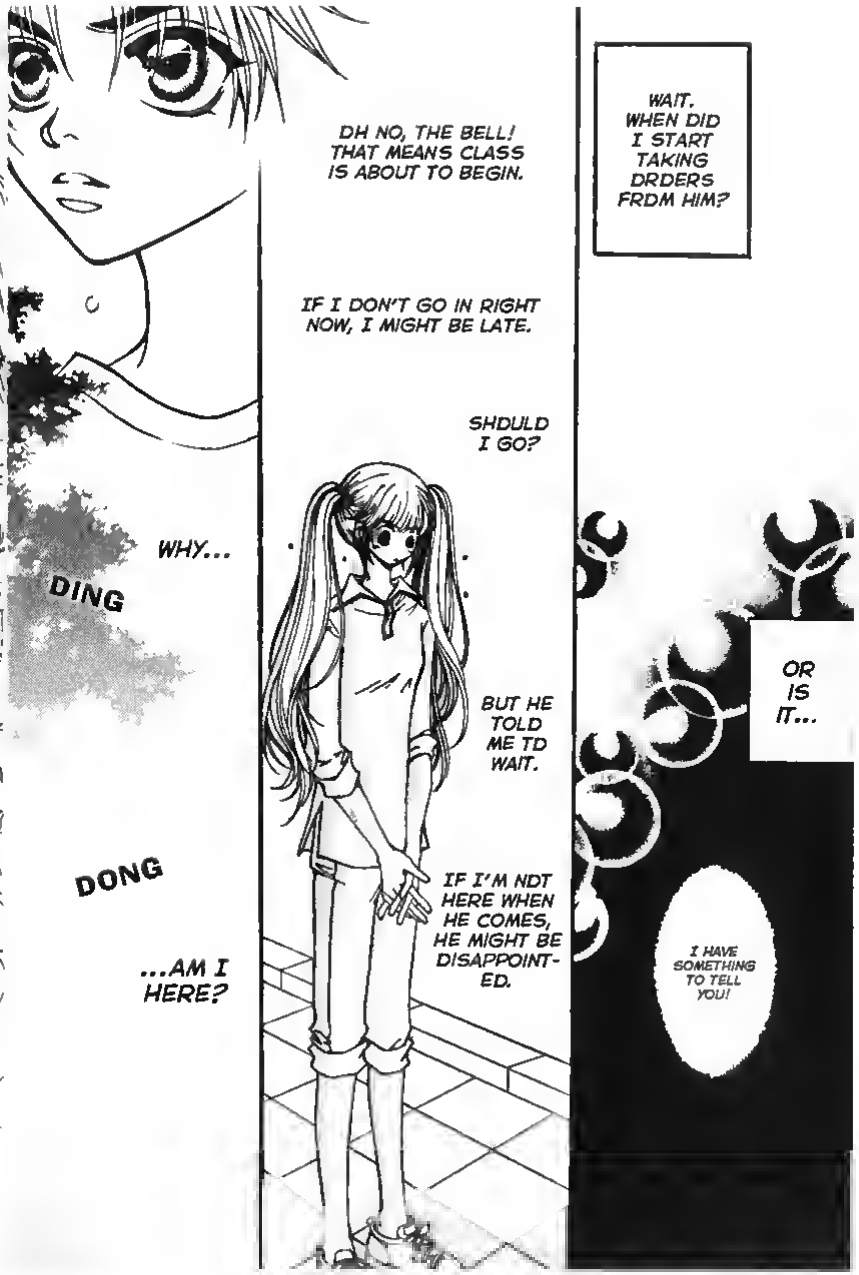
HE'S SO... INCREDIBLY CUTE!
twinkle
twinkle
ARE YOU OKAY DOWN THERE?
WHAT KIND OF HUMILIATION IS THIS?
!

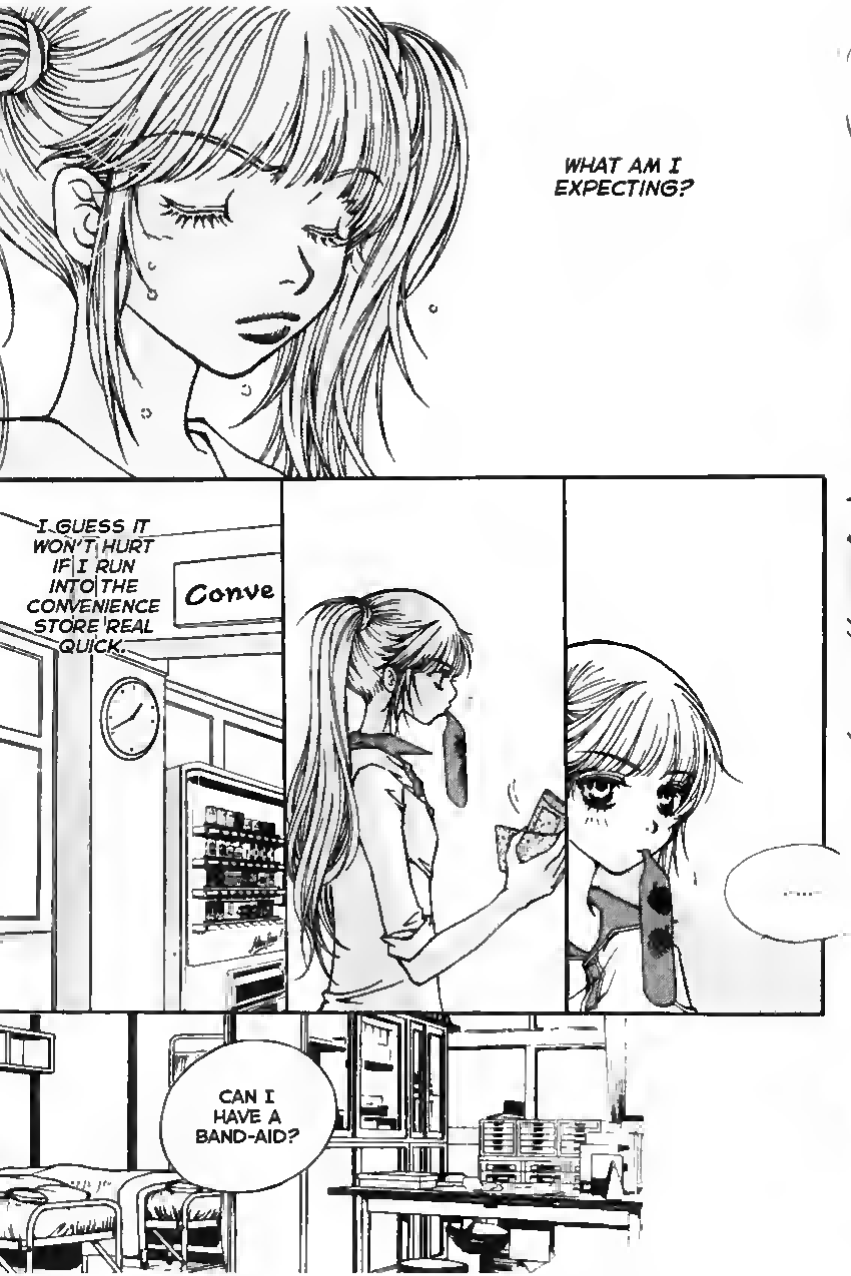

ISN'T THAT EO WITH A JUNIOR HIGH GIRL?
I THOUGHT THEY BROKE UP. WHAT'S GOING ON? WEREN'T YOU GUYS DATING?
Could he be cheating?
チェ
OH NO!
MARY!

EO! SOMETHING'S WRONG! MARY...
OKAY!
SOMEONE GET THE TEACHER!
AND YOUNG-OH, BRING EO!
MARY'S FAINTED!
MARY?!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
UH, THERE'S BLOOD ON YOUR HAND.
BLOOD?!

STAY HERE UNTIL I GET BACK!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!
WE BROUGHT THE TEACHER!
IT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
OKAY?!
W-WAIT A SECOND!
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO CLASS IN A FEW MINUTES!
Not listening
Has gone
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY PRECIOUS LITTLE MARY?
FORGIVE ME, TEACHER!
EO, YOU CARRY HER!
HUH?

WHY ME?
IT'S THE FANTASY OF ALL LITTLE GIRLS TO BE CARRIED ON THE BACKS OF THE ONES THEY ADORE.
IT MAY BE BRIEF, BUT TREASURE IT WHILE YOU STILL CAN, MARY.
Even if I were reincarnated after death, I still don't think I'd understand girls. They're like an alien species.
CCH
CCH


WHY...
DING
DONG
...AM I HERE?
OH NO, THE BELL! THAT MEANS CLASS IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
IF I DON'T GO IN RIGHT NOW, I MIGHT BE LATE.
SHOULD I GO?
BUT HE TOLD ME TO WAIT.
IF I'M NOT HERE WHEN HE COMES, HE MIGHT BE DISAPPOINTED.
WAIT. WHEN DID I START TAKING ORDERS FROM HIM?
OR IS IT...
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU!


WHAT AM I EXPECTING?
I GUESS IT WON'T HURT IF I RUN INTO THE CONVENIENCE STORE REAL QUICK.
Conve
.....
CAN I HAVE A BAND-AID?

DON'T WORRY. IT'S JUST A LOW FEVER.
SHE'S ALSO SLIGHTLY DEHYDRATED, BUT SHE SHOULD BE BETTER SOON.
AND HERE I THOUGHT THINGS WERE GOING WELL FOR ONCE.
THUNK
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, EO?
I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST.
OH, REALLY?
Hmm
Very suspicious

HOLD THAT THOUGHT.
HELLO? AH... MR. SHIN?
YES, YES... MARY'S FINE, SO THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO COME. YES?
THE CAUSE?
WELL, "PSYCHOLOGICAL-SHOCK-DUE-TO-LOVE-TRIANGLE" MIGHT FIT THE BILL.
NURSE!

Chapter 3: Hey Waits For EO

ED... DO YOU REMEMBER?

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, MY TEDDY BEAR, SEBASTIAN, WAS MY ONLY FRIEND.

Only friend (Sebastian)

THANKS TO MY MOM, I WOULD ONLY WEAR DESIGNER KIDS CLOTHES, ALWAYS LOOKING LIKE A PRINCESS. IT WAS NO WONDER THE OTHER KIDS NEVER TALKED TO ME.

She looks snobby but she's actually quite fragile

BUT EO WAS DIFFERENT.

WATCH OUT!!

ONLY EO...

HE DIDN'T DISCRIMINATE AND TORTURE ME LIKE THE OTHERS.

EO

How dare you make a girl cry again?! ㅎㅂ

S-stupid?

STUPID GIRL! IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT TAE KWON DO, THEN GET OUT OF MY WAY!

Oh, no! Sebastian!

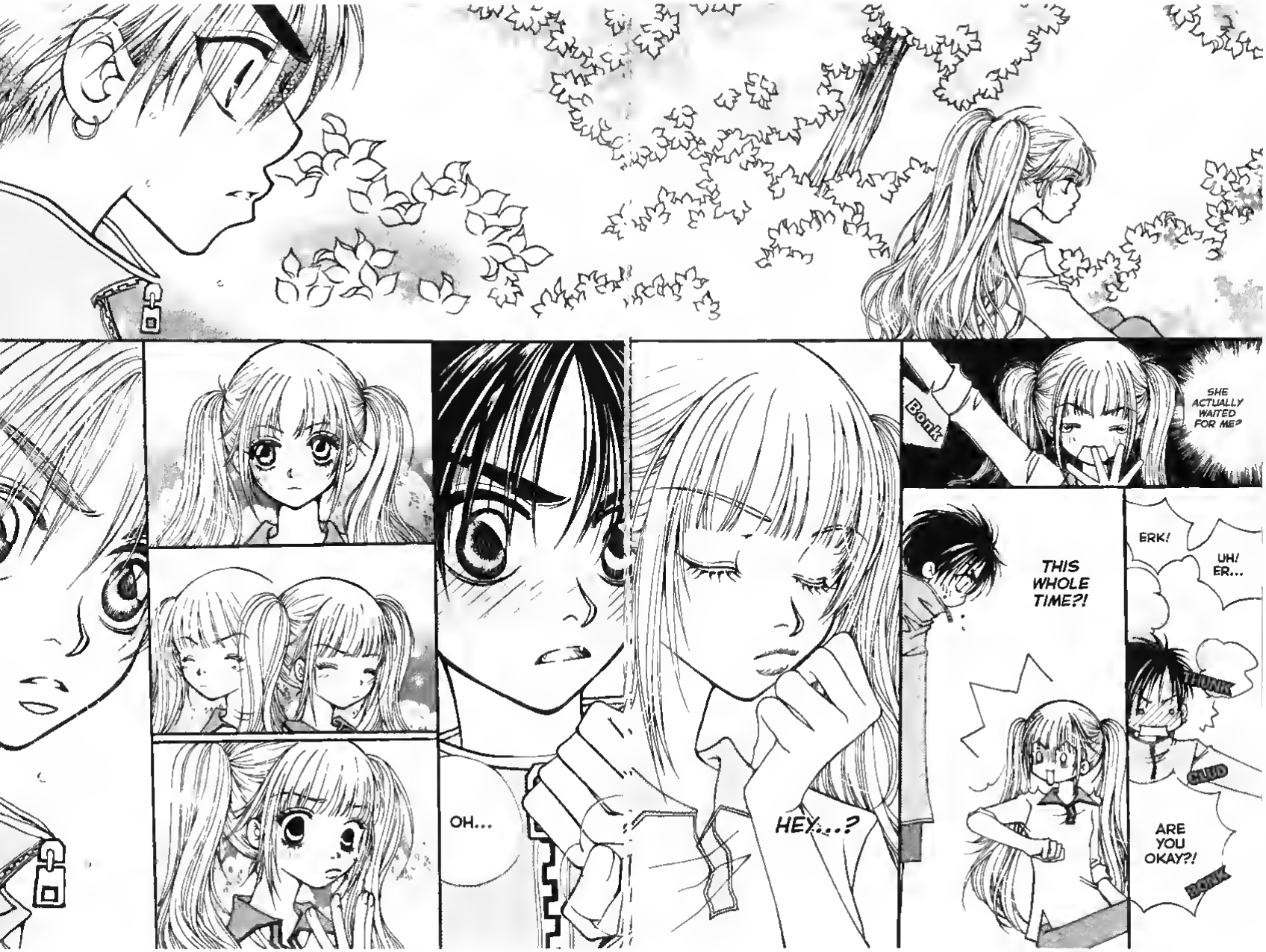
"HEY, EO, WHAT'S YOUR TYPE?"
"TYPE?"
"I HATE WHINY GIRLS THE MOST!"
I HAVE TO BE STRONG!!
IF EO HATES WEAK GIRLS...
...I HAVE TO SHOW THAT I CAN BE STRONG ON MY OWN!
A QUEEN IN EVERY WAY!
She's going a bit overboard
BUT WHY...
...DOES HE LIKE HEY ANO NOT ME?
EO?!

HE'S BEEN HERE...
...BY MY SIDE...
...THIS WHOLE TIME?
Clunk
UH, EXCUSE ME, BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU LEAVE?
OW, OW, OW...
AH, SO YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHY?
IT'S BECAUSE YOU GRABBED MY SHIRT AND WOULDN'T LET GO--
I MEAN--!
YOU STUPID TWIT!
WHY THE HELL DID YOU STAND IN THE HOT SUN FOR SO LONG? WERE YOU TRYING TO KILL YOURSELF? THE SUN WAS ROASTING ME, THERE WERE SHRIEKING GIRLS EVERYWHERE! DO YOU KNOW WHAT I WENT THROUGH TO BRING YOU HERE?!
IF YOU WEREN'T SICK, I WOULD'VE LEFT YOU ON YOUR OWN! GOT THAT?!
Mumble
Grumble
Great now why's your head hurt?
Always ordering me around like a pet!
Sneeze!
Nngh
HERE'S YOUR MEDICINE.
IT'S EXTRA-STRENGTH MEDICINE DISSOLVED IN WATER SO IT'LL BE EASY TO SWALLOW!
YOU SAID YOU ARE WEAK, SO TAKE YOUR MEDICINE LIKE THE NURSE SAID OKAY?
DON'T LET YOUR OWN CLUMSINESS MESS UP OTHER PEOPLE'S SCHEDULES BECAUSE OF YOU, I BROKE A PROMISE.
...I WANT YOU TO GET RID OF HER.
WHAT?

SHE GETS TWO GUYS TO HANG ALL OVER HER, BECAUSE OF THAT STUPID BABY-FACE OF HERS!
HOW CAN YOU STILL LIKE HER...
...AFTER ALL THE CRAP SHE'S PUT YOU THROUGH?!
WH-WHOA! CALM DOWN!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?
SHE'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET...TO GET TWO GUYS TO LIKE HER AT ONCE!
S l a p
YOU'RE JUST TOO DUMB TO REALIZE THAT SHE STILL LIKES EZ!
I WISH SHE'D DIE!!

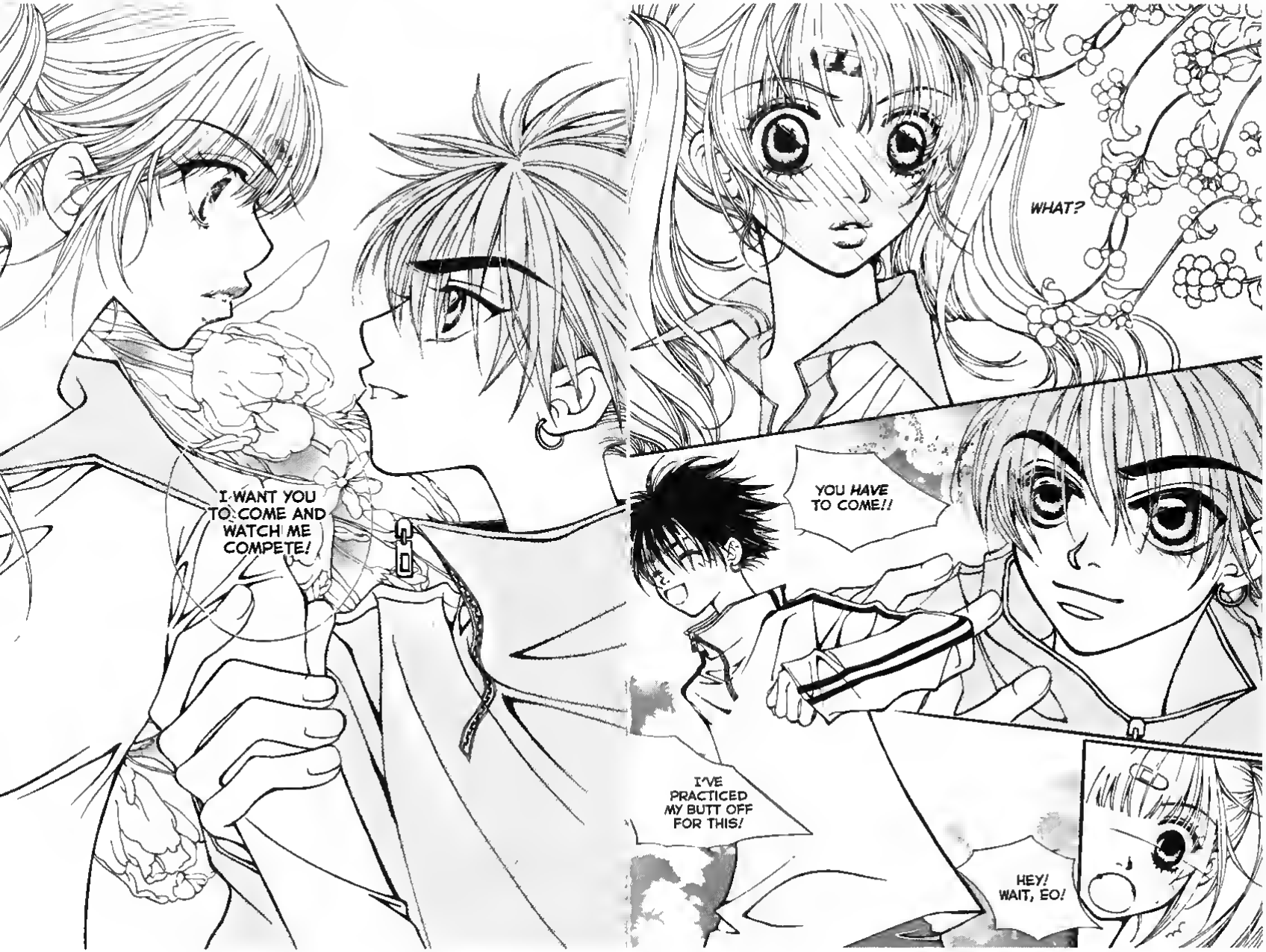
쇼크
Y-YOU SLAPPED ME!
No one's ever hit me before
YOU REALLY COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ME...
THAT'S NOT IT, AIRHEAD!
DAMN IT! I NEVER SAID IT BEFORE, BUT YOU'RE MY CLOSEST FRIEND!
No.1
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL JUST LET YOU GET AWAY WITH TALKING SMACK ABOUT THE GIRL I LIKE, UNDERSTAND?
THEN, YOU MEAN HEY--
YES! I LOVE HER MORE THAN ANYONE!
AND LET ME SET A FEW GROUND RULES STRAIGHT.
HAVEN'T I MADE IT CLEAR BY NOW?!

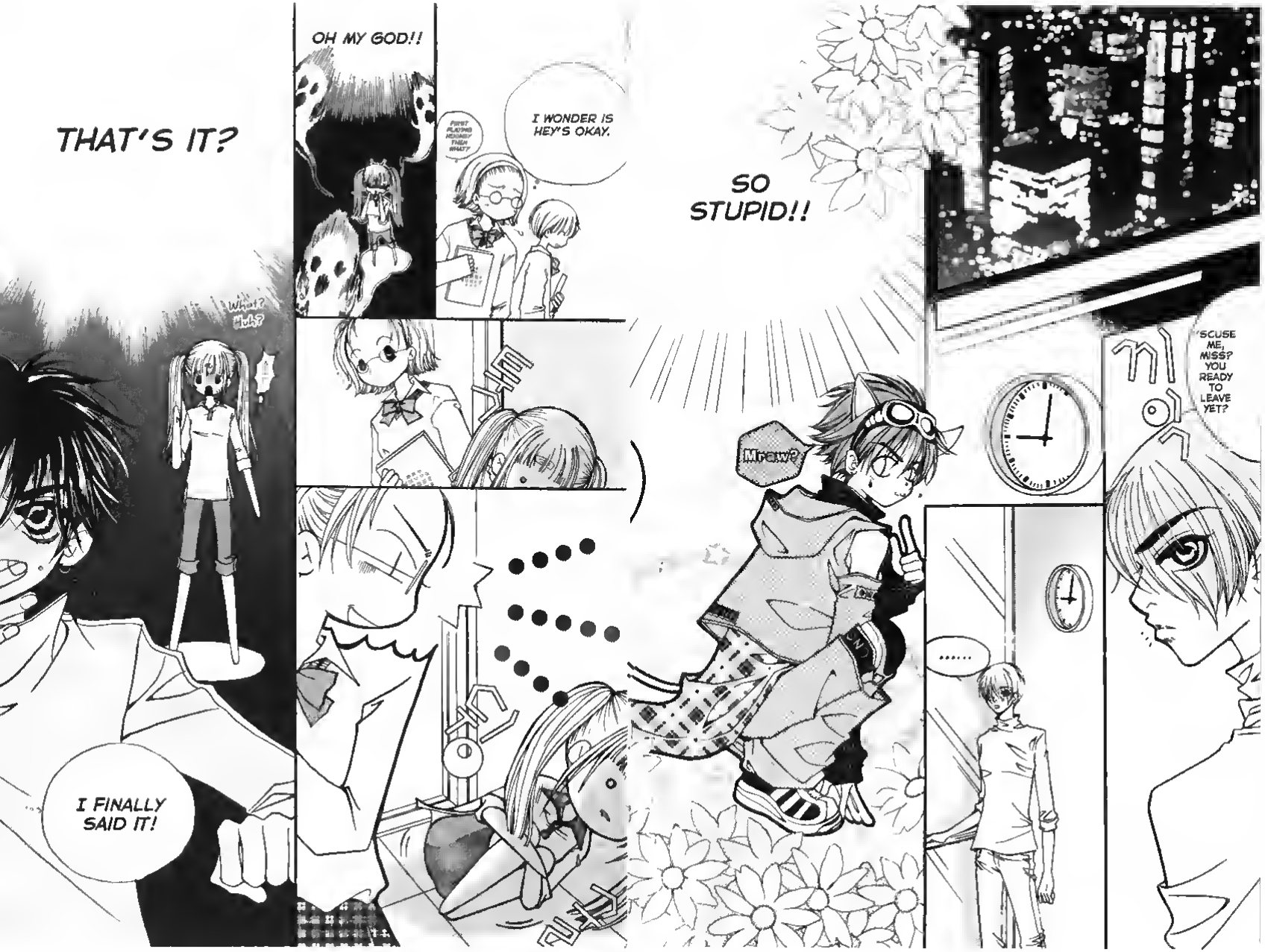
HEY IS NOT A PLAYER.
It's just not part of her character
I FOLLOW HER OUT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.
Yak! Yak!
MUST BE THE OTHERS.
THAT'S MY CUE TO LEAVE.
WAIT, EO!
A-AREN'T YOU ANGRY?
YOU KNOW HOW HEY--
YEAH. I KNOW.
BUT I ALREADY PROMISED HER THAT I WOULDN'T BOTHER HER ANYMORE
SO I'M GONNA HAVE TO PUT A CAP ON THESE FEELINGS FOR A WHILE
I'LL BE OKAY!
SUCH AN... IDIOT.
I GAVE UP MY PRIDE A LONG TIME AGO.
YOU STUPID IDIOT!
JUST SEE WHERE THAT GETS YOU!
DID SHE ALREADY LEAVE?
Guess I did take a longer than I'd planned
Rustle


OH...
HEY...?
Bonk
SHE ACTUALLY WAITED FOR ME?
THIS WHOLE TIME?!
ERK!
UH! ER...
THUNK
CLUD
ARE YOU OKAY?!
BONK

IS YOUR BUTT OKAY?
I'M SORRY FOR COMING SO LATE!
UH, YEAH...
Band-aid?
OH! THE BAND-AID!
Uh, look at the pretty birdie--
OH NO!
F-FOUND IT?
NOT YET--
AH! HERE IT IS!
FOR SOME REASON..
...I FEEL SO...
...SELF-CONSCIOUS!

WHAT'S WITH THE BAND-AID?
DID YOU GET HURT?
THIS? ER, IT'S NOT FOR ME...
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GOT BRUISED UP EARLIER.
Stay calm stay calm
I MEAN-- THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
GAH, CAN'T SLIP UP NOW!
IT'S UM...THE LATEST TREND? YEAH! A NEW ACCESSORY!
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW CUZ YOU'RE ONLY IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
BUT IT'S ALL THE RAGE IN JUNIOR HIGH!
JUST SLAP IT ON, AND VOILA! A FASHIONABLE BAND-AID THAT MAKES A STATEMENT!
Heh, heh.
Gasp!
GOD, I'M MAKING SUCH A FOOL OUT OF MYSELF! THERE'S NO WAY EO'S GONNA BUY THIS!
Band-aids are in fashion?
I guess that's pretty original
Prediction
O-OKAY. GUESS I DON'T STAY ON TOP OF THE FASHION SCENE
JUNIOR HIGH'S MORE AMAZING THAN I THOUGHT.
THIS...
...WASN'T HOW IT WAS SUPPOSED TO GO.
A-ANYWAY, IS THAT ALL YOU HAD TO SAY?
He's really dumber than he looks!
THEN, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
WAIT! I'M GOING TO BE IN THIS SKATEBOARD COMPETITION ON SUNDAY IN DOWNTOWN YUH-EU-DO.
Skateboard?
IT'S A HUGE COMPETITION THAT HAPPENS ONLY TWICE A YEAR. I BARELY MADE IT IN, BUT I'LL BE THERE!
LISTEN, THIS THING REALLY MEANS A LOT TO ME.


I WANT YOU TO COME AND WATCH ME COMPETE!
WHAT?
YOU *HAVE* TO COME!!
I'VE PRACTICED MY BUTT OFF FOR THIS!
HEY! WAIT, EO!


THAT'S IT?
What? Huh?
I FINALLY SAID IT!
OH MY GOD!!
FIRST PLAYING HOOKEY THEN WHAT?
I WONDER IS HEY'S OKAY.
SO STUPID!!
Mrew?
'SCUSE ME, MISS? YOU READY TO LEAVE YET?
.....

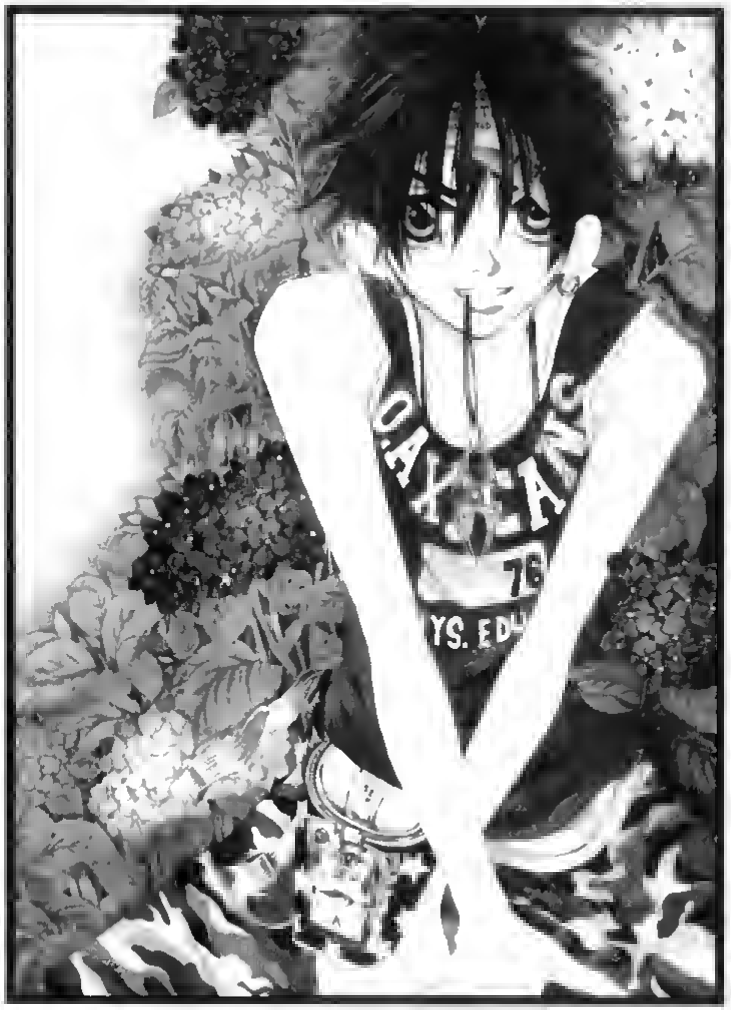
SORRY, BUT THE BUILDING'S GOTTA BE CLEARED TONIGHT FOR CLEANUP.
HAS EVERYONE ELSE IN THE OFFICE ALREADY GONE?
OFFICE?
THERE WAS NOBODY THERE.
I SEE.
I EXPECTED THAT.
HEY THERE. AND JUST WHERE ARE YOU HEADED?

WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE JUST SEEN A GHOST DON'T WORRY, I ALREADY SENT THE OTHER FANS AWAY
HERE'S A MIDNIGHT SNACK.
SENT THEM AWAY? YOU DID?!
I'm starved let's eat!!
SPLICK
YUP, THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
LET'S DO OUR BEST FROM NOW ON!
I can't believe it
OH, AND BY THE WAY...
...FROM NOW ON...
...I'LL MAKE SURE NOTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENS AGAIN.
BUT I'M NOT SAYING WHAT YOU DID WAS RIGHT.
You really didn't have to be so harsh
I APOLOGIZED PARTLY BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE FIGHTING BUT...
...ALSO I'M SORRY FOR NOT BEING MORE SENSITIVE ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS.

OKAY, OKAY.
I CAN'T JUST SIT BACK AND TAKE IT.
LET ME APOLOGIZE, TOO. I'M SORRY.
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
GREAT!! NOW THAT WE'RE GETTING ALONG FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, LET'S PRACTICE!!
NOT SO FAST, COWBOY. THE STUDIO'S CLOSED FOR CLEANING
K LETS GO!!
STUPID.
And I don't like tuna. Get me a new one
What? That's all they had!
Like bologna
I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING.
FOR THE SINGLE AND BRIEFEST MOMENT...
...SHE ACTUALLY...
...LOOKED GORGEOUS!
EVERYONE READY?
THEN, LET'S BEGIN!

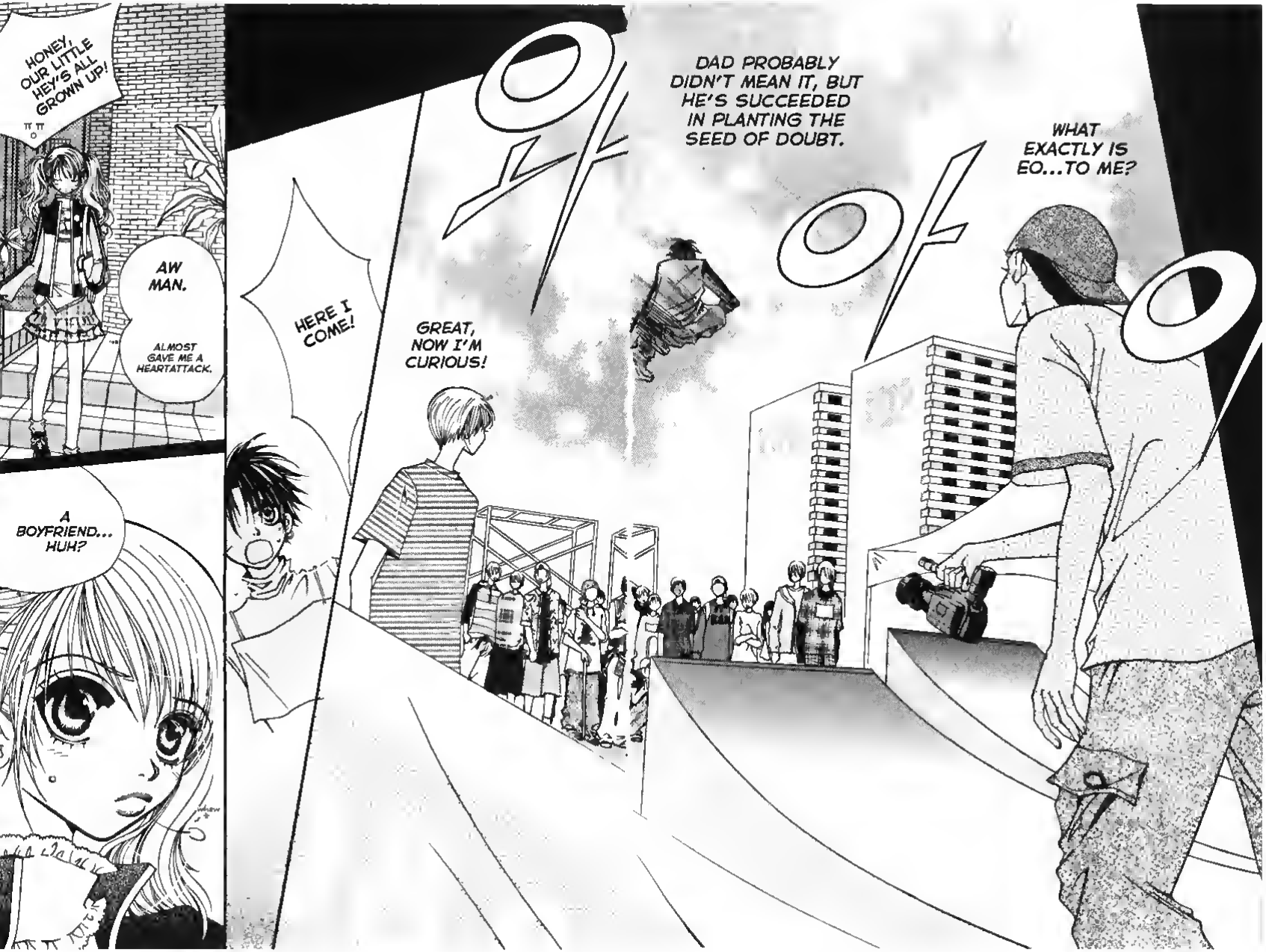
THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING WONDERFUL!
DID YOU SEE THE F.I.M. POSTER! ISN'T IT, LIKE, THE BOMB?!
F·I·M
THE NEW GIRL'S COOL, TOO! BUT, OMIGOD, EZ IS TO DIE FOR! HE'S SO WAY COOLER THAN BEFORE!
IT'S GOTTA BE THE NEW ATTITUDE! I'M BUYING THEIR ALBUM FOR SURE THIS TIME!!

WHEW! THAT'S ALL THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THESE DAYS
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE LOOKS SO DIFFERENT JUST BECAUSE OF HIS HAIRSTYLE! CELEBRITIES JUST AREN'T LIKE NORMAL PEOPLE, YA KNOW?
Squeee!! ♥
BUT I SEE HOW THEY WERE SURPRISED.
OOPS! SORRY, HEY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT.
IT'S COOL, JUNG-EUN. I'M OKAY NOW.
I THINK EZ...
...DOES LOOK BETTER, LIKE YOU SAID.
FOR OTHER REASONS, IT'S HARD FOR ME.
LATELY, IF I SEE HIM IN A MAGAZINE OR PHOTO, IT JUST DOESN'T REGISTER IN MY HEAD.
Huh?
You mean this one's a girl?!
ARE THOSE NEW CONTACTS? HE LOOKS SO SEXY.
Zoning time
ONE MINUTE, I'M WALKING ON CLOUDS. THE NEXT, I'M PLUMMETING TO EARTH. WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
It's not even time for spring fever yet!
And there are butterflies in my stomach!
OH! YOU DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT GOING SHOPPING FOR CLOTHES, RIGHT? WE'RE GOING RIGHT AFTER THE TEST.
HUH? WHEN? WHERE?!
THIS SUNDAY.
THAT'S THE DAY OF EO'S SKATEBOARDING COMPETITION!
THIS SUNDAY?

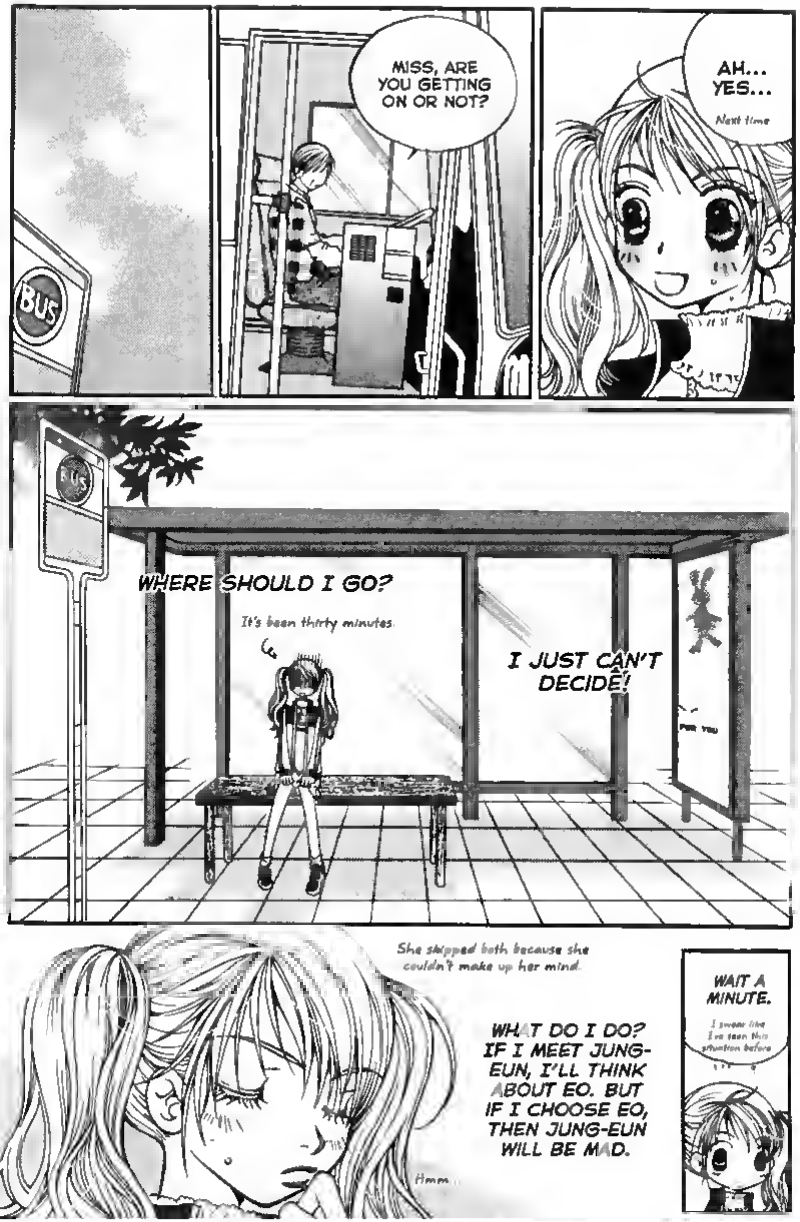


Chapter 4: Skateboard Competition

BYE-BYE!
♡
GOOD MORNING, PRINCESS. WHERE ARE YOU GOING SO EARLY ON A SUNDAY?
How do I look?
Very pretty!
ARE YOU GOING OUT TO SEE YOUR BOYFRIEND?
YOU HAVE ONE, RIGHT? RIGHT?!


HONEY, OUR LITTLE HEY'S ALL GROWN UP!
AW MAN.
ALMOST GAVE ME A HEARTATTACK.
A BOYFRIEND... HUH?
HERE I COME!
GREAT, NOW I'M CURIOUS!
DAD PROBABLY DIDN'T MEAN IT, BUT HE'S SUCCEEDED IN PLANTING THE SEED OF DOUBT.
WHAT EXACTLY IS EO...TO ME?

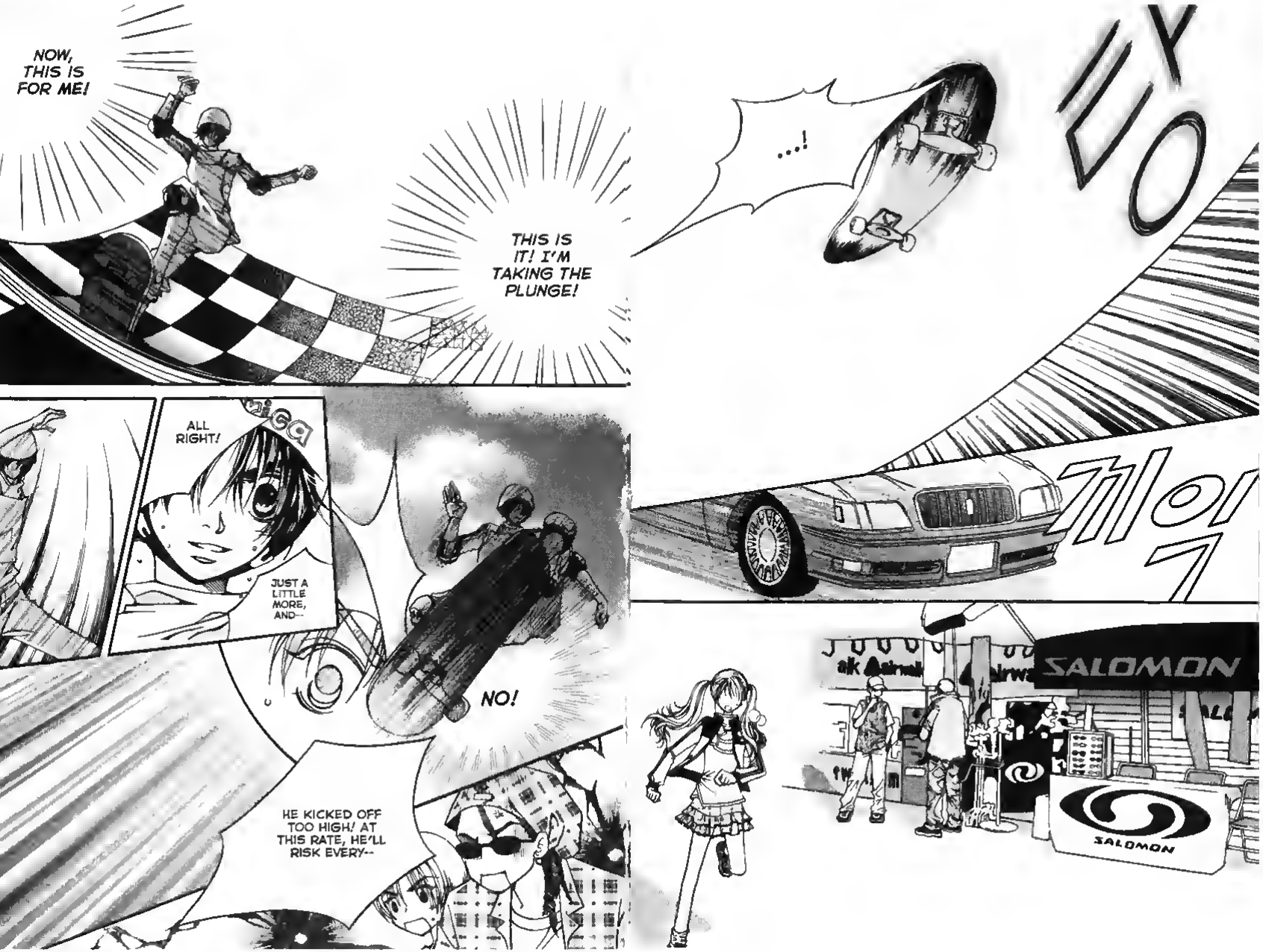
AWESOME, DUDE!
JEFFERSON AIRPLANE
GRATEFUL DEAD
SUH-WEET! OH, YOU PRETTY LITTLE THING! C'MERE AND LEMME GIVE YOU A SMOOCH!
NOW THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE COURSE LEFT, YOU HAVE TO BEAT IT.
WHERE'S HEY?
SHE'S NOT HERE YET?
HEY, EO! ARE YOU WAITING FOR YOUR LITTLE FRIEND?
What was that for?!
N-NO. NEVERMIND.

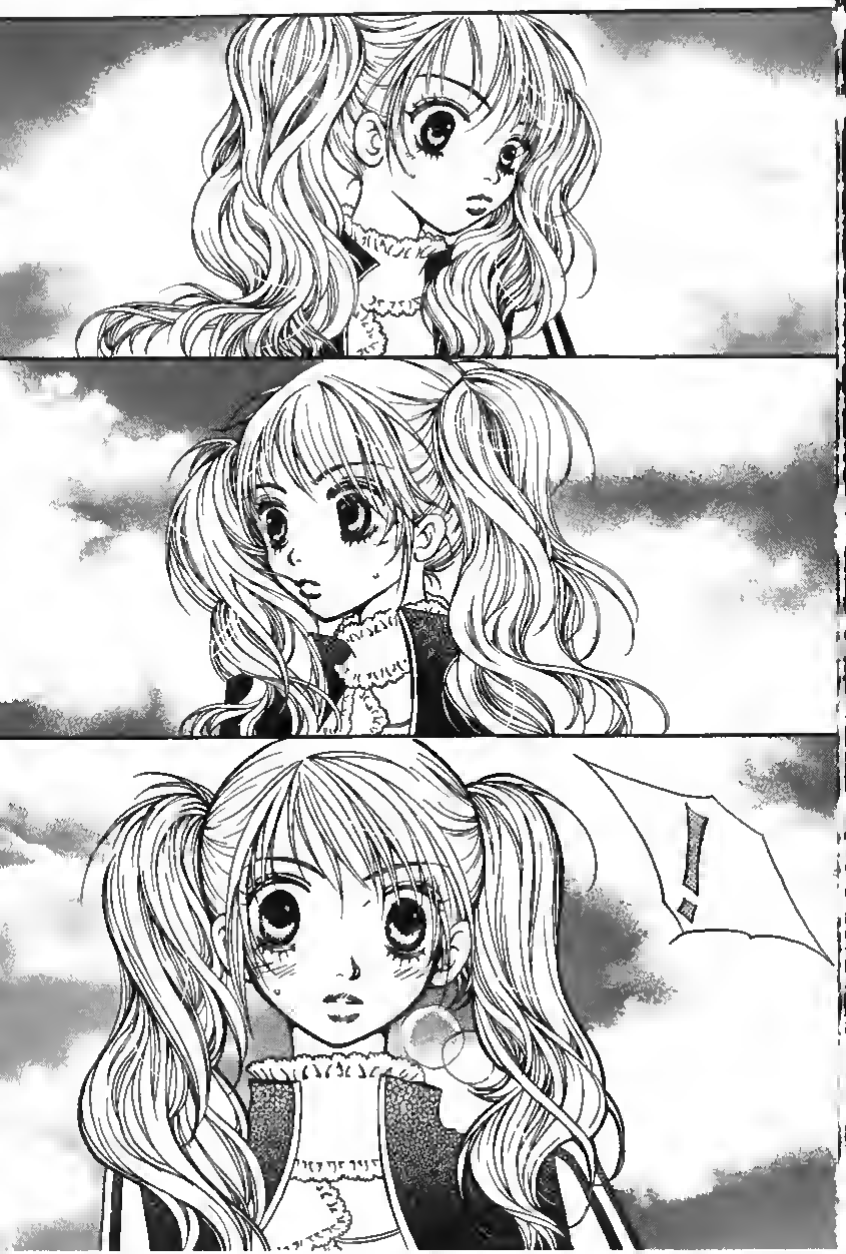

BUS
MISS, ARE YOU GETTING ON OR NOT?
AH... YES...
Next time
WHERE SHOULD I GO?
It's been thirty minutes.
I JUST CAN'T DECIDE!
She skipped both because she couldn't make up her mind.
WHAT DO I DO? IF I MEET JUNG-EUN, I'LL THINK ABOUT EO. BUT IF I CHOOSE EO, THEN JUNG-EUN WILL BE MAD.
Hmm
WAIT A MINUTE.
I swear like I've seen this situation before

FRIENDSHIP...
...OR LOVE?
IN THAT CASE...
I'LL CHOOSE THIS ONE TODAY!
THAT'S THE USUAL COURSE OF ACTION.
RIGHT?
I'M SORRY, JUNG-EUN!
What!
TAXI!!
Take me to downtown Yuh-Eu-Do!

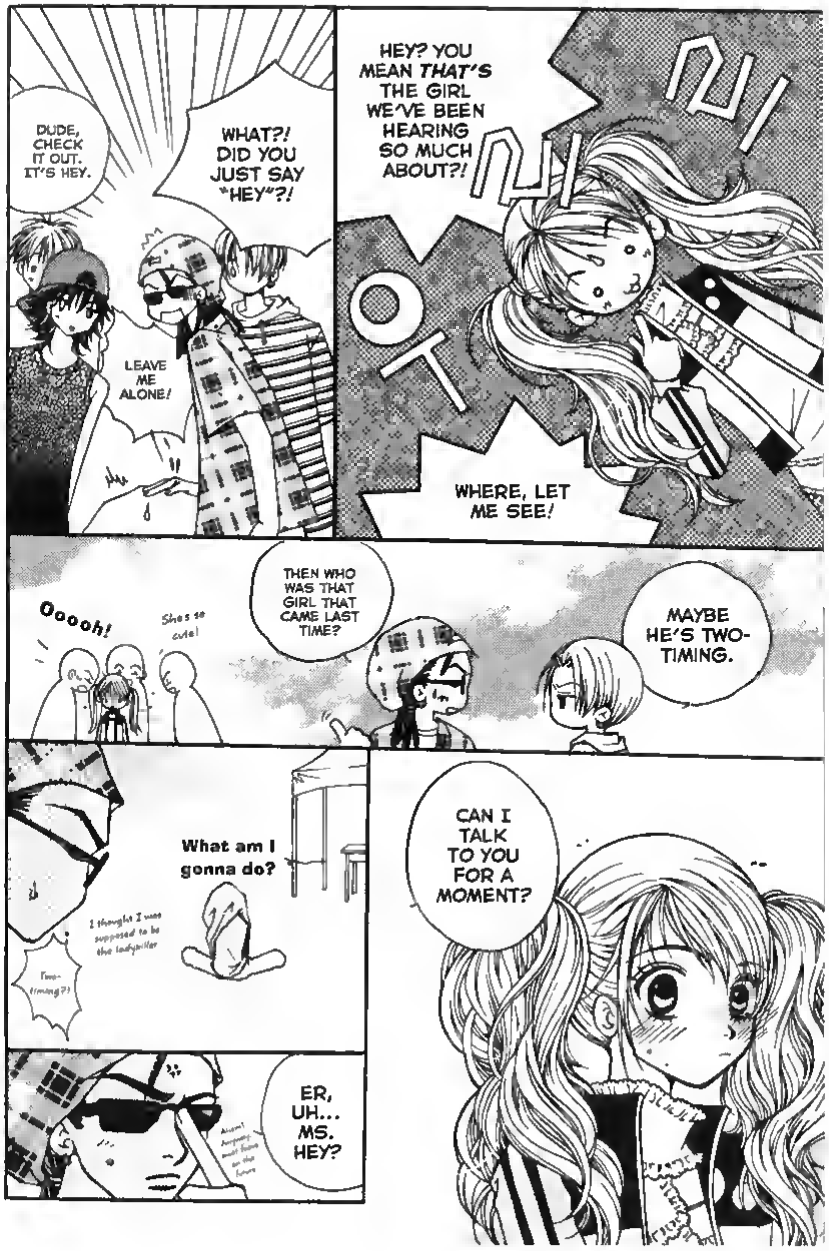
HEY, DUDE! THAT TRICK WAS A "TRANSITION TURN," RIGHT?
YEAH. SO?
EO'S NAME IS ON THE LIST.
YEAH, IT'S ME. SO WHAT?

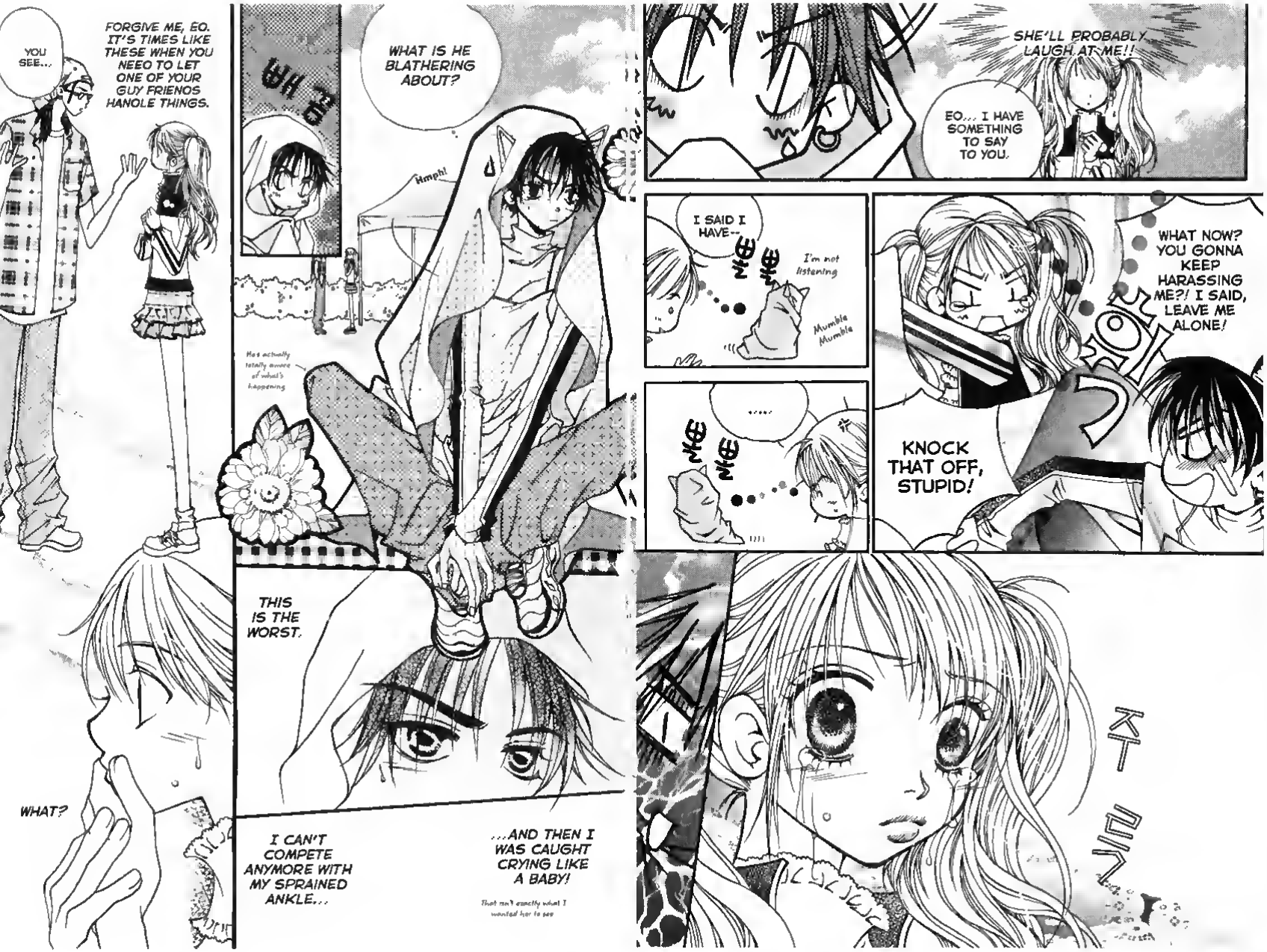
WHAT HAPPENED?! Y-YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO ONLY GO ON TWO ROUNDS!
I PRACTICED A LOT, SO I'LL BE FINE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUSH YOURSELF, MAN. IT'S--
WHAT IF YOU GET HURT?
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL BE FINE.
I MAY HAVE TRIED TO SOUND LIKE I HAD IT ALL DOWN, BUT...
...I'M REALLY NERVOUS AS HECK ABOUT THIS.
I WANT EO MORE THAN ANYTHING TO SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF HEY.
BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO GET THE FEELING THAT DOESN'T MATTER.


NOW, THIS IS FOR ME!
THIS IS IT! I'M TAKING THE PLUNGE!
...!
ALL RIGHT!
JUST A LITTLE MORE, AND--
NO!
HE KICKED OFF TOO HIGH! AT THIS RATE, HE'LL RISK EVERY--
SALOMON
SALOMON



HE'S... CRYING?
EO?
HEY, IS THAT YOU?
NO, NO, NO! WHY DID SHE HAVE TO SHOW UP NOW OF ALL TIMES?!
DAMN IT! WHY DID YOU COME HERE?!
JUST GO AWAY!


DUDE, CHECK IT OUT. IT'S HEY.
WHAT?! DID YOU JUST SAY "HEY"?!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
HEY? YOU MEAN THAT'S THE GIRL WE'VE BEEN HEARING SO MUCH ABOUT?!
WHERE, LET ME SEE!
Ooooh!
She's so cute!
THEN WHO WAS THAT GIRL THAT CAME LAST TIME?
MAYBE HE'S TWO-TIMING.
What am I gonna do?
I thought I was supposed to be the ladykiller
Two-timing?!
Aiyo! Anyway, wait here at the front
ER, UH... MS. HEY?
CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A MOMENT?


YOU SEE...
FORGIVE ME, EO. IT'S TIMES LIKE THESE WHEN YOU NEED TO LET ONE OF YOUR GUY FRIENDS HANDLE THINGS.
WHAT IS HE BLATHERING ABOUT?
Hmph!
Has actually totally aware of what's happening
THIS IS THE WORST.
WHAT?
I CAN'T COMPETE ANYMORE WITH MY SPRAINED ANKLE...
...AND THEN I WAS CAUGHT CRYING LIKE A BABY!
That isn't exactly what I wanted her to see
SHE'LL PROBABLY LAUGH AT ME!!
EO... I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU.
I SAID I HAVE--
I'm not listening
Mumble Mumble
.....
WHAT NOW? YOU GONNA KEEP HARASSING ME?! I SAID, LEAVE ME ALONE!
KNOCK THAT OFF, STUPID!

I HEARD WHAT HAPPENED, YOU BRAT.
YOU GOT HURT TRYING TO SHOW OFF!
SO WHY ARE YOU HIDING? YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
I'M SORRY...
I SHOULD HAVE COME EARLIER.
I SEE...
THANK YOU.
HEY HAS AN OLDER SISTER QUALITY ABOUT HER...
AND THERE'S MORE.
TALK ABOUT CUTE! ♡
LET ME TELL YOU, HEY, BUT EO HAS BEEN HAVING IT HARD LATELY.
PLEASE, IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU CAN SAY TO HIM...
Erk!
THE TRUTH IS I... I--!
I LIKE YOU, TOO!
WHAT...?

HEY, CHANG-SIK. WHAT DID YOU TELL HER JUST NOW?
NOTHING. JUST ASKED IF SHE COULD TELL HIM SOMETHING GOOD.
I'M SO JEALOUS!
WHY'S HE ALWAYS GETTING THE GIRLS?!
I LIKE YOU...
IS IT TRUE? WHAT YOU JUST SAID?
YES.
LOOKS LIKE I GOT THROUGH TO HIM! BE STRONG, EO!
Sniff

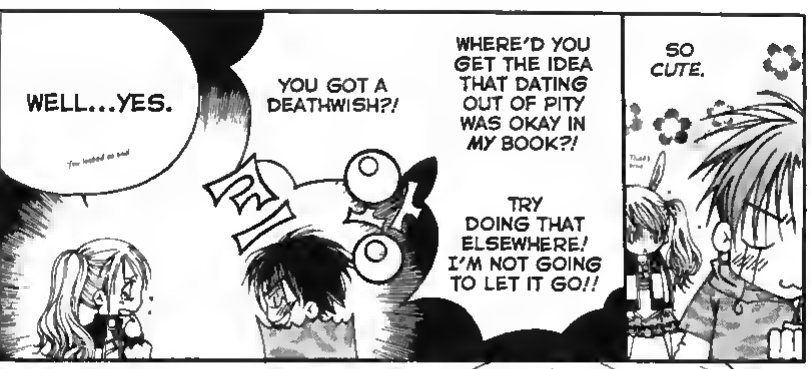
THEN, YOU CAN'T TAKE IT BACK!
Fully Revived
HUH?

BACK TO HIS OLD WAYS AGAIN!
WELL, I ALWAYS DID HAVE A FEELING. HEH HEH HEH.
I KNEW YOU'D COME CRAWLING BACK TO ME.
EO, CAN YOU WALK?
FOR YOU, I COULD RUN A MARATHON! ♡
MY ANKLE HURT FOR A BIT, BUT NOW I'M AS FIT AS A FIDDLE!
WHY, I THINK I'LL BE PERFECTLY FINE TOMORROW, TOO!

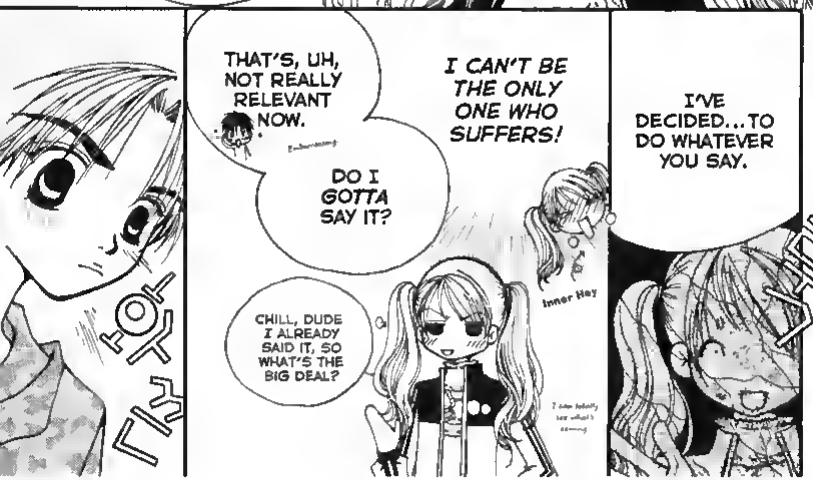
Are you okay?
In shock!

I FELL FOR IT!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I FELL FOR IT...
AS IF! YOU THINK I'D STILL BE SITTING HERE INSTEAD OF AT THE HOSPITAL IF IT WERE THAT BAD?
WHAT'S IT MATTER NOW?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED. LIKE, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SKATEBOARD AGAIN!
DON'T TELL ME YOU SAID ALL THAT JUST TO MAKE ME FEEL BETTER, DID YOU?


WELL...YES.
YOU GOT A DEATHWISH?!
WHERE'D YOU GET THE IDEA THAT DATING OUT OF PITY WAS OKAY IN MY BOOK?!
TRY DOING THAT ELSEWHERE! I'M NOT GOING TO LET IT GO!!
SO CUTE.

BUT WAIT A SECOND...
IF I JUST STAY LIKE THIS, IT'S THE SAME AS ADMITTING THAT I LIKE HIM!
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT...
...DIDN'T YOU WANT TO TELL ME SOMETHING?


THAT'S, UH, NOT REALLY RELEVANT NOW.
DO I GOTTA SAY IT?
I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE WHO SUFFERS!
I'VE DECIDED...TO DO WHATEVER YOU SAY.
CHILL, DUDE I ALREADY SAID IT, SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
Inner Hey

WHAT ELSE CAN I DO, YA KNOW? IT SEEMS WHATEVER I TRY, YOU GET UNCOMFORTABLE.
WHAT THE HECK...??
Can't stop twitching face
SINCE THERE WAS ALREADY TOO MUCH DRAMA HAPPENING, I THOUGHT IT'D BE BEST TO LET YOU HAVE YOUR WAY. BUT, I NEED A CLEAN CONSCIOUS ABOUT THIS.
THIS MAKES IT LOOK LIKE... I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO MADE A SCENE!
SO, I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU THAT I...YOU KNOW. ONLY AFTER I WON THE MATCH.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY ANYMORE.
I'M SORRY!! PLEASE FORGET EVERYTHING I JUST SAID!!

I CAN'T TELL HIM...
GRR!
HOLD IT! STOP RIGHT THERE! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
...IT WAS ALL TRUE! EVEN IT KILLS ME!
YOU FICKLE LITTLE--
WHEN DID I EVER--?!
I ONLY SAID IT IN ORDER TO COMFORT YOU!

HM!
♡
You know I was really mad that day right?
SO...YOU FINALLY CONFESSED, IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "CONFESSED"?
I WAS TOTALLY DUPED!
OH NO... NOW THAT I WAS FORCED TO DO THAT, MY SCHOOL LIFE IS OVER!
A GRADE SCHOOLER FOR A BOYFRIEND?! I'LL NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT!
Naomi's going to rip me to shreds!
Should I transfer schools?
She's more ambitious than I thought!
Mumble
A COMPLETE REVERSAL IS ONLY MATTER OF TIME, ISN'T IT?
HOW?!
THE PROBLEM IS THAT EO IS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID AND THAT HE'S SHORTER THAN YOU, RIGHT?
THINK ABOUT IT. IT'S SEPTEMBER RIGHT NOW, SO IN SIX MONTHS, EO WILL BE A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT LIKE US!
AND TEENAGE BOYS PRACTICALLY GROW OVERNIGHT! THEN THE PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED NATURALLY!
All you need to do is wait
I WILL SAY THIS; EO WILL DEFINITELY BECOME A HANDSOME MAN!
Ha ha ha ha ha!
KAHH
BUT, SIX MONTHS FROM THAT DAY...
EO?!
YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE.
Bwa ha ha ha ha!
No way!
...JUNG-EUN'S PREDICTION WAS FREAKISHLY SPOT ON!

NAOMI, DID YOU HEAR?
THERE'S A REALLY HOT FRESHMAN THAT JUST ENTERED.
OH, PLEASE. YOU THINK I'LL GO GA-GA OVER SOME LITTLE KID?
Whack
WHAT THE ? WHO THE HECK JUST SLAPPED MY BUTT?
OOPS, MY BAD.
GIRLS.

Chapter 5: You're Just Too Young For Me

THIS GUY...

HEY!

Now where have I seen them before?

...LOOKS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

Drip

NOW I REMEMBER! IT'S THE LEADER OF THE WITCH CLIQUE!

Aha!

GIVE ME YOUR HAND, PLEASE.

Uh, okay?

HE DOES HAVE GOOD TASTE.
Ahem
Huh?
WAS IT A LETTER? OR MAYBE A REALLY SMALL PRESENT?
THAT'S STRANGE. IT'S SOFT. LIKE A--
RUN
Hi!
Aaaaaah!
EEEEEK! DON'T THROW IT THIS WAY!!

Why you little-bastard!
How dare you?!
You'll-pay-for-this!
WAIT A MINUTE. IT WAS--
Gasp!
NAOMI, G-GET OFF ME!
Ha ha ha!
THAT CHEEKY LITTLE BRAT?!
THAT COCKY FACE AND VOICE. WHERE HAVE I SEEN IT BEFORE...?
TREKSTA
EO!
WE'VE GOT A SITUATION!

HUH?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
Smile
Smile
WHY, NOT AT ALL! I'LL STILL BE WORKING HERE AT THE LIBRARY.
UH...I HEARD THAT YOU'D BE GIVING UP YOUR POST BECAUSE IT'S YOUR LAST YEAR HERE, SO...
IS IT TRUE?
Oh!
N-NO REASON!
BUT WE WERE WONDERING, CAN WE JOIN?
SURE, JUST WRITE YOUR NAME HERE.
Stop stuttering
D'oh!
EO!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?!
Ran all the way here
HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
YOU...
... BASTARDS !!

GRR...
WHAT'S THIS? YOU GUYS AGAIN?!
MAN-JIN PARK, HYUCK-PIL IM...
AND EVEN HEE-JUNG! LOOKS LIKE THE WHOLE SOCCER TEAM'S HERE.
DID YOU MISTAKE THIS FOR A FIELD?
Heh heh
MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MISTAKEN?
This place is for members only
THIS MAKES IT THE FIFTH TIME NOW! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY PRECIOUS MEMBERS?!
IF YOU DO THIS ONE MORE TIME YOU'LL BE BANNED FROM COMING IN PERMANENTLY!!

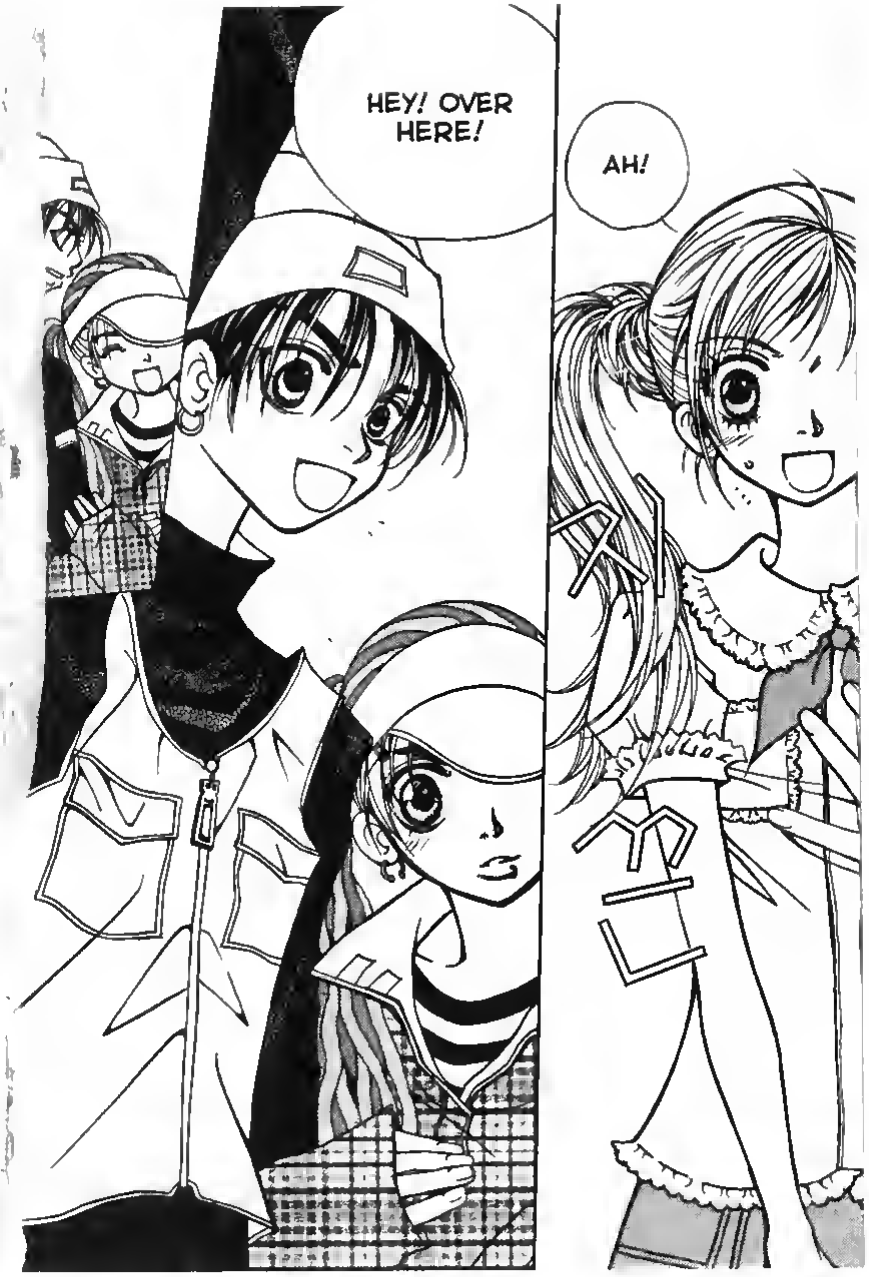
EITHER WAY, IF YOU GUYS GET NEAR MY HEY, YOU'RE DEADMEAT!
HUH? HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
SO THE RUMORS ARE TRUE. SHE HAS HIM WRAPPED AROUND HER LITTLE FINGER.
WHAT AN IDIOT.
TOTALLY RUTHLESS.
I CAN'T HELP IT THAT YOU ATTRACT SO MANY COMPETITORS!
HEY, YOU'RE TOO POPULAR THESE DAYS.
Wait for me!
Forget about it!
WHY DO YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE THAT? IT'S EMBARRASSING ME!
DON'T FALL FOR THEIR TRICKS! DON'T YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THEY ARE?
YOU'RE PASSING OUT DEATH THREATS, AND NOW THEY'RE THE DANGEROUS ONES?!
They actually looked pretty cute

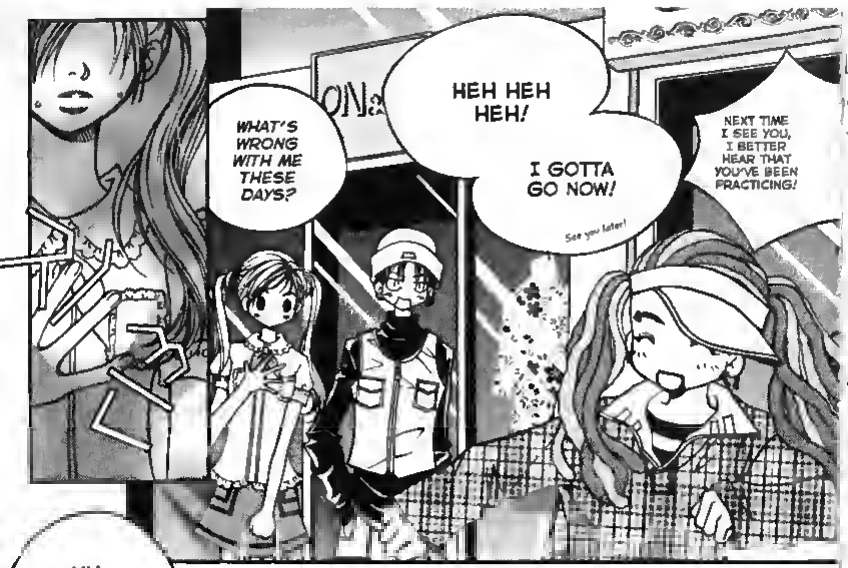
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT!
FROM NOW ON...
...REFER TO ME AS AN "UPPERCLASSMAN" HERE IN SCHOOL!
I'M IN JUNIOR HIGH NOW. AFTER EZ GRADUATES, EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY! FINALLY, A HAPPY ENDING! ...OR SO I HOPED!
Want to high school
La la!
Friendly junior high students
La la!
WHY ARE THINGS SO COMPLICATED LIKE THIS?
Speaking of which, help me with homework
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME ALL THIS?
I don't like to hear it
GOT IT, FRESHMAN?
DAMN IT!
WHY ARE THINGS SO COMPLI-CATED?!
WHY IS SHE ACTING LIKE AN UPPER-CLASSMAN ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I FEEL LIKE I SHOULO KNOW HER, BUT I DON'T.
YOU'VE GOTTA LEARN TO KEEP UP WITH GOSSIP.
I'm taking care of my reputation
IT'S A NEW FAD FOR THIRD YEAR GIRLS TO DATE NEW FRESHMEN.

.....!!!
AND YOU KNOW WHO STARTED IT? YOU!
SO QUIT COOPING YOURSELF UP WITH ME. TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU!
I'M NOT GOING TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU THIS TIME.
HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED IT BY NOW?
NOTICED WHAT?
WHY?
BECAUSE I GET UPSET.
YOU REALLY DON'T REALIZE...
...HOW HANDSOME YOU'VE BECOME?
WHERE? WHAT ARE YOU TELLING ME TO LOOK AT?
I don't see anything
Squeak!
YOU MUST REALLY BE STUPID.
Are you blind? 00

WOW. WHAT AT TOTAL IDIDT.
Although there's nothing I can say
HEY THERE
HOW'S IT HANGING?
DO YOU WANT A RIDE?
In case you forget this is Chang sik
W-WAIT A MINUTE!
IGNORE THE STRANGE MAN...
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT WHO I AM! IT'S ME, CHANG-SIK!
REMEMBER? WE MET A WHILE AGO...
C'MON! I'M SERIOUS! HOLD UP!
RECENTLY...
...I'VE HAD A DISEASE THAT I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT.

THAT "DISEASE" IS...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE MET OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.
screen
creative
???
LOOK OVER THERE!
Whisper
whisper
ISN'T THAT HIP-HOP COUPLE OVER THERE CUTE?
Whisper
ARE THEY CELEBRITIES?
Squeal! ♡
CELEB-RITIES? WHERE, WHERE?
Extremely happy
!

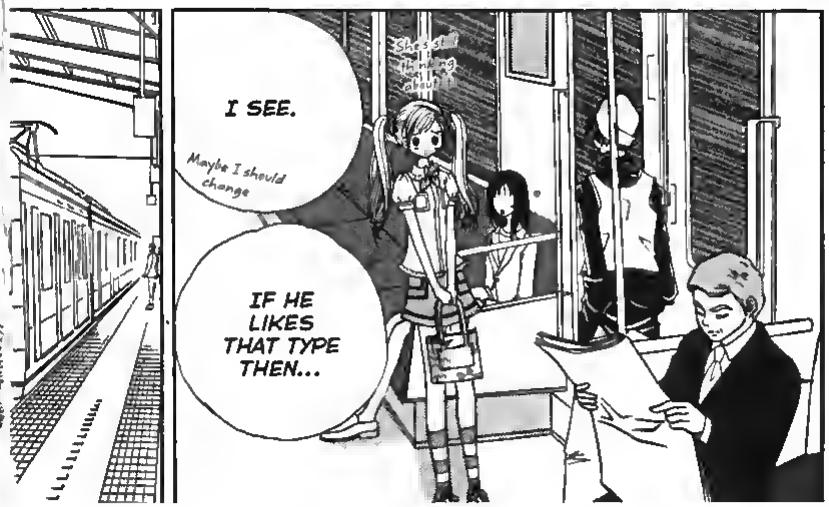

HEY! OVER HERE!
AH!

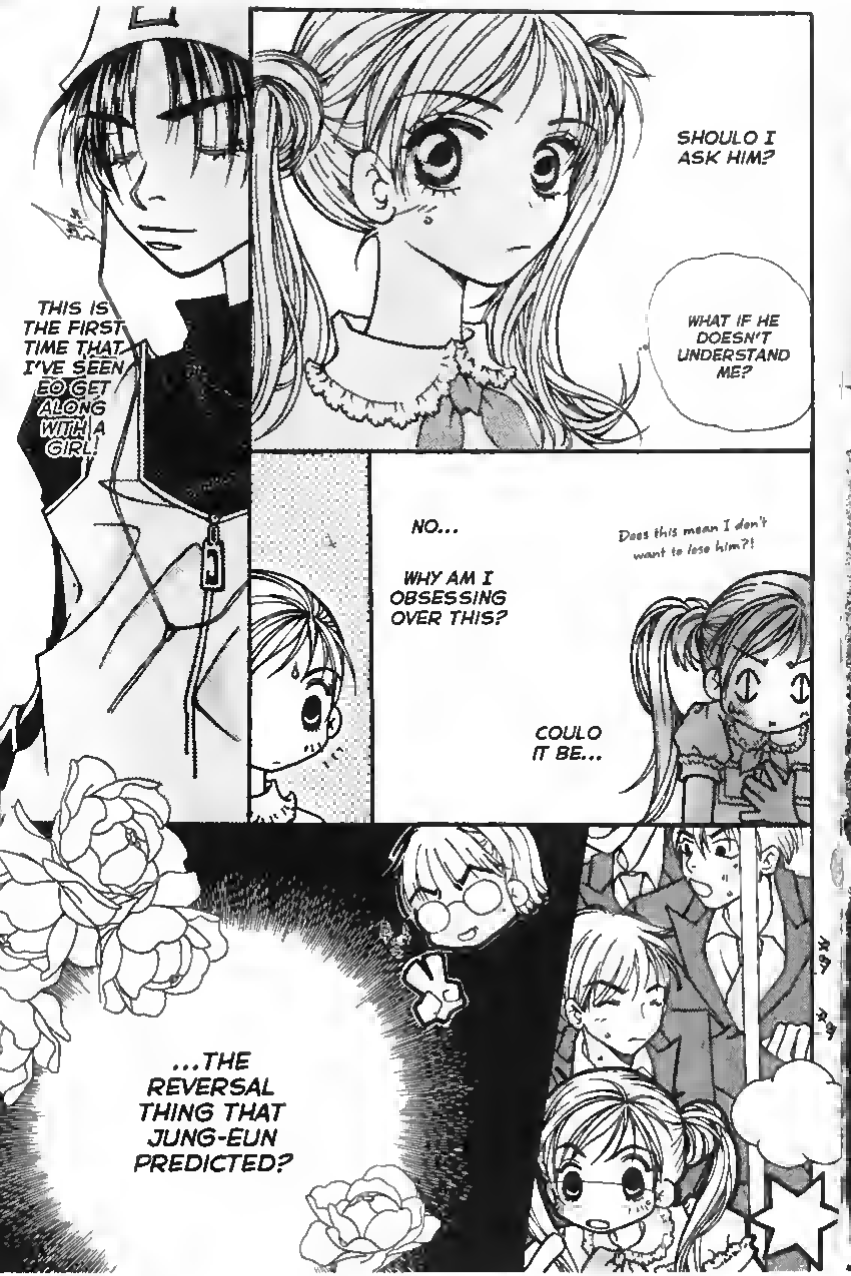

WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME THESE DAYS?
HEH HEH HEH!
I GOTTA GO NOW!
See you later!
NEXT TIME I SEE YOU, I BETTER HEAR THAT YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING!

UH, WHO WAS THAT?
JUST A FRIEND FROM SKATE-BOARDING.
She's in the same grade as me
HUH? SAME GRADE?
W-WOW! WITH SO MANY PIERCINGS ALREADY? I SEE SHE'S REALLY INTO HIP-HOP, HUH?
I'm actually, scared of piercings

REALLY?
I LIKE IT. I THINK THEY'RE COOL.

I CAN'T STAND GIRLS WHO LIVE LIKE THEY'RE PRINCESSES OR SOMETHING.
Ah! What a nice day!
OH! THERE GOES MY HEART AGAIN...
DOES HE MEAN I'M TOO GIRLIE?


I SEE.
Maybe I should change
IF HE LIKES THAT TYPE THEN...


THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT I'VE SEEN EO GET ALONG WITH A GIRL!
SHOULO I ASK HIM?
WHAT IF HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ME?
NO...
WHY AM I OBSESSING OVER THIS?
Does this mean I don't want to lose him?!
COULO IT BE...
...THE REVERSAL THING THAT JUNG-EUN PREDICTED?

OH NO! ALMOST FORGOT THIS STOP'S RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL!
Help me!
OKI

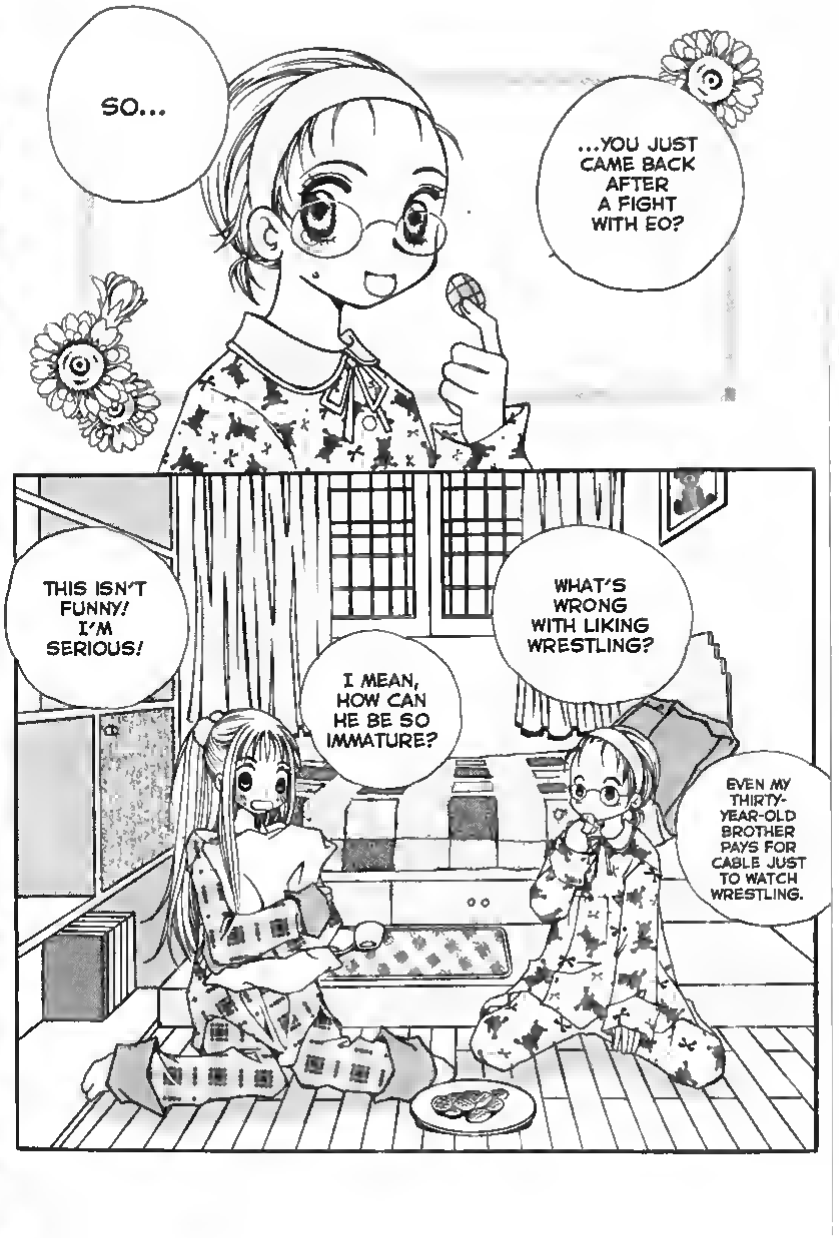
ARE YOU OKAY?!
BACK OFF!
YOU PERVERTS! YOU WERE BUMPING INTO HER ON PURPOSE!

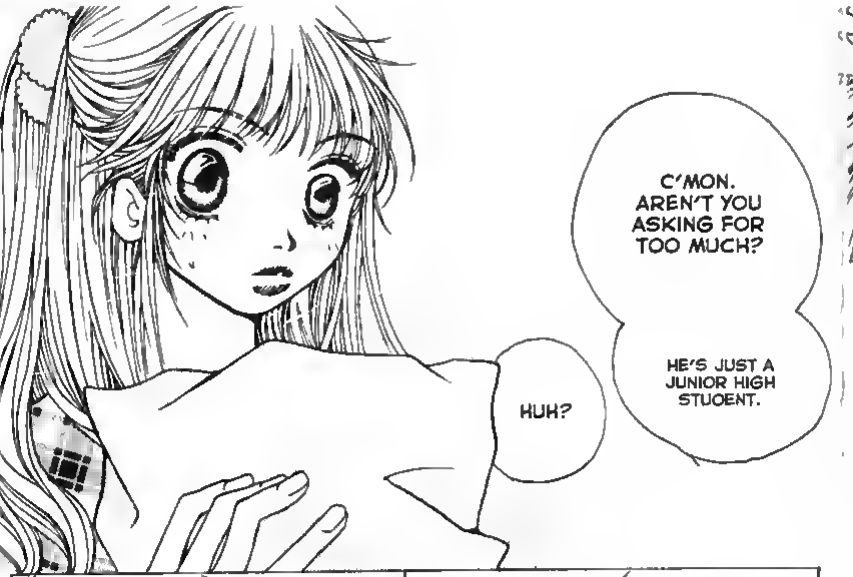
AAAAH!
STAY STILL!
WHY ARE YOU FLAILING AROUND LIKE THAT?
파닥 파닥
B-BUT, UH...!
THIS POSITION'S... MAKING ME A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE...
THEN CLOSE YOUR EYES.
BETTER?
YEAH...

THIS IS A MISTAKE.
JUST HAVING MY EYES CLOSED IS MAKING ME MORE SENSITIVE!
ドキン
HUH?
EO...?
DID YOU... GET TALLER?

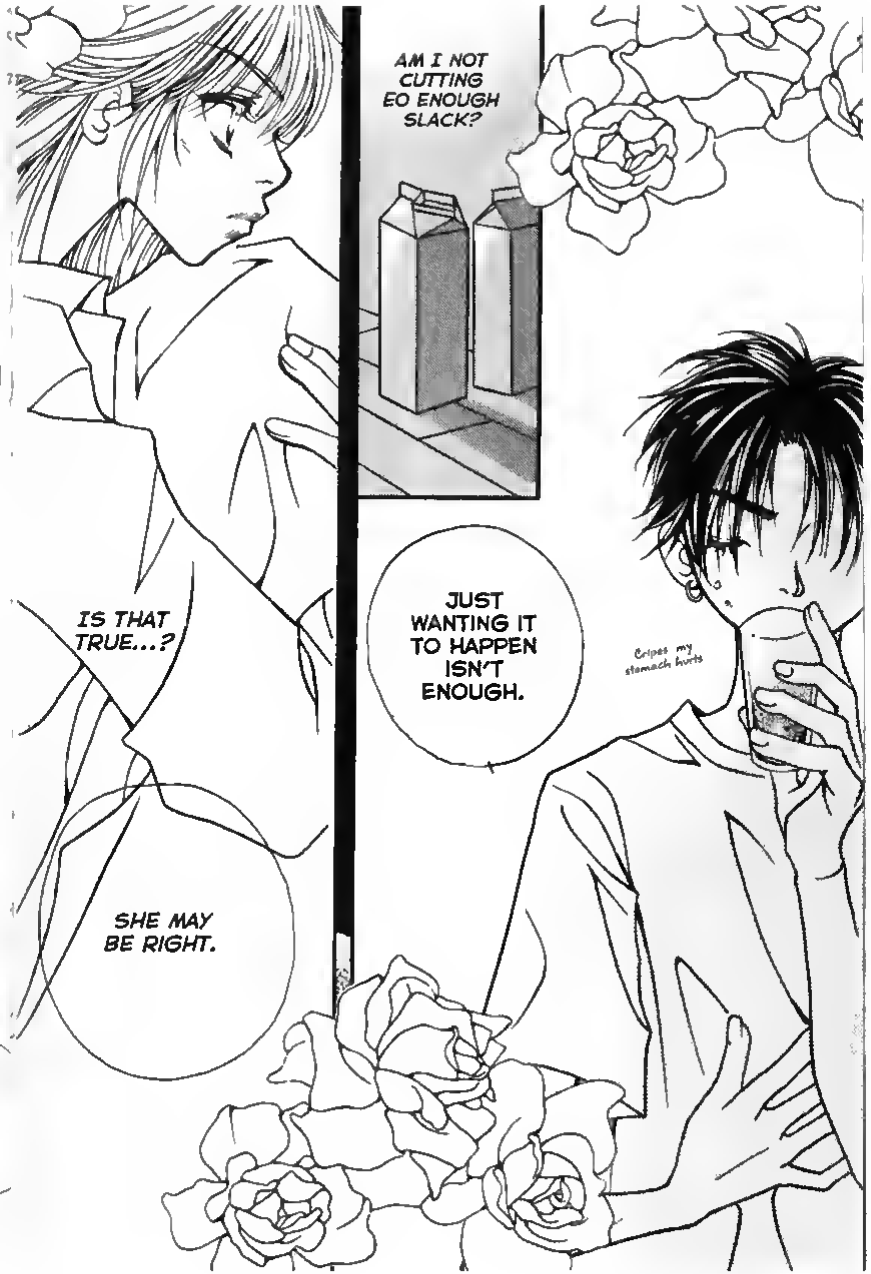
DUMMY! DON'T TELL ME YOU JUST NOTICED NOW.
I'D BETTER HAVE GROWN SOME. I DRANK MILK EVERY MORNING... DESPITE THE STOMACH-ACHES.
MY BONES WERE ACHING SO MUCH EVERY NIGHT, I COULDN'T EVEN SLEEP!
I'VE GROWN THREE CENTIMETERS THIS MONTH ALONE!
AT THIS RATE, I'LL BEAT EZ!
THREE CENTI-METERS?
LUCKY DOG! I'M STILL THE SAME HEIGHT AS I WAS TWO YEARS AGO!!
BEFORE LONG, I'LL BE AN ADULT!
AND THEN I'LL BE...
...ATTENDING THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL AS YOU, AND PLAYING BASKETBALL!
WOW, GUESS ALL MY TEASING HIM FOR BEING SHORT REALLY GOT TO HIM.
I'M GOING TO BE AN AWESOME WRESTLER LIKE TRIPLE H OR SHAWN MICHAELS!!
OKAY, OKAY. WHERE'D THIS "AWESOME WRESTLER" STUFF COME FROM?

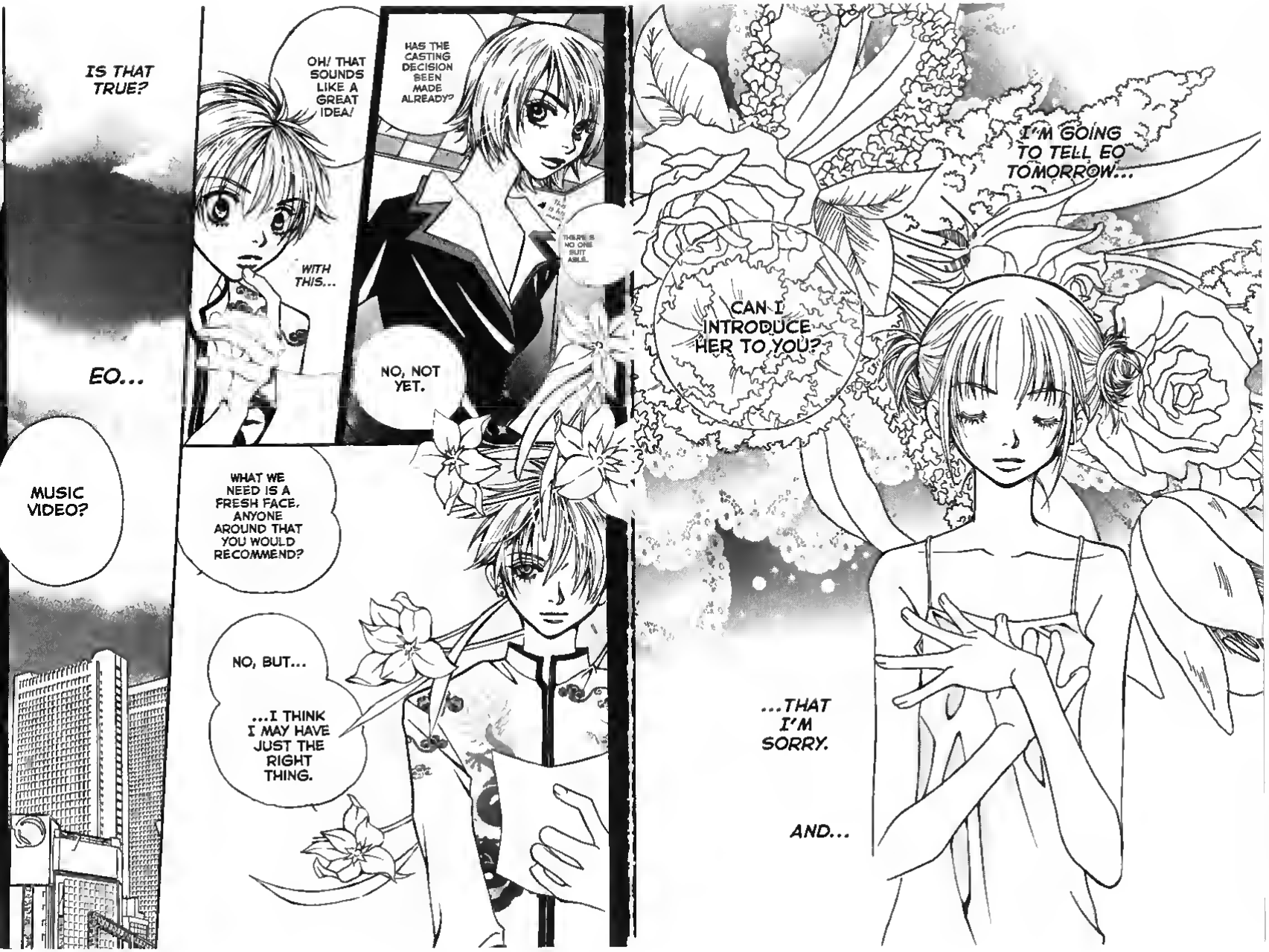
WAIT A SEC. WASN'T IT YOUR DREAM TO BE AN AWESOME SKATEBOARDER?
Hates wrestling →
HEH HEH... I DECIDED TO PUT THAT DREAM ASIDE FOR A WHILE NOW IS CLEARLY NOT THE RIGHT TIME!
He-heh
JUST THINK OF IT! THE RAW POWER OF MUSCLE AND FLESH COVERED IN SWEAT. THE PURE VIOLENCE AS MEN STRUGGLE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER!
THIS IS WHAT IT REALLY IS TO BE A MAN!
PRETTY COOL, HUH?
THAT'S SERIOUSLY JUST LIKE...
...A LITTLE KID.
WHAT?!


SO...
...YOU JUST CAME BACK AFTER A FIGHT WITH EO?
THIS ISN'T FUNNY! I'M SERIOUS!
I MEAN, HOW CAN HE BE SO IMMATURE?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH LIKING WRESTLING?
EVEN MY THIRTY-YEAR-OLD BROTHER PAYS FOR CABLE JUST TO WATCH WRESTLING.


C'MON. AREN'T YOU ASKING FOR TOO MUCH?
HE'S JUST A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT.
HUH?

THINK ABOUT IT. FROM THE MOMENT YOU DECIDED TO DATE HIM, HE HAS CONSTANTLY TRIED TO BE WHATEVER HE THOUGHT YOU WANTED HIM TO BE.
SURE, HE GREW PRETTY FAST, BUT HE CAN ONLY GO SO FAR.
HE'D NEVER SAY THIS ALOUD, BUT HE MIGHT BE EXHAUSTED INSIDE.
AND YET YOU'RE ALWAYS ASKING HIM TO COME UP TO YOUR LEVEL!
YOU HAVE TO CHANGE THAT.
YOU'RE RIGHT! YOU ARE MY SAVIOR, JUNG-EUN!
How do you know so much with so little experience?
IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE COMICS I READ.
I'm full of theories


IS THAT TRUE...?
SHE MAY BE RIGHT.
AM I NOT CUTTING EO ENOUGH SLACK?
JUST WANTING IT TO HAPPEN ISN'T ENOUGH.
Cripes my stomach hurts


IS THAT TRUE?
EO...
MUSIC VIDEO?
OH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA!
WITH THIS...
HAS THE CASTING DECISION BEEN MADE ALREADY?
THERE'S NO ONE SUITABLE.
NO, NOT YET.
WHAT WE NEED IS A FRESH FACE. ANYONE AROUND THAT YOU WOULD RECOMMEND?
NO, BUT...
...I THINK I MAY HAVE JUST THE RIGHT THING.
I'M GOING TO TELL EO TOMORROW...
CAN I INTRODUCE HER TO YOU?
...THAT I'M SORRY.
AND...

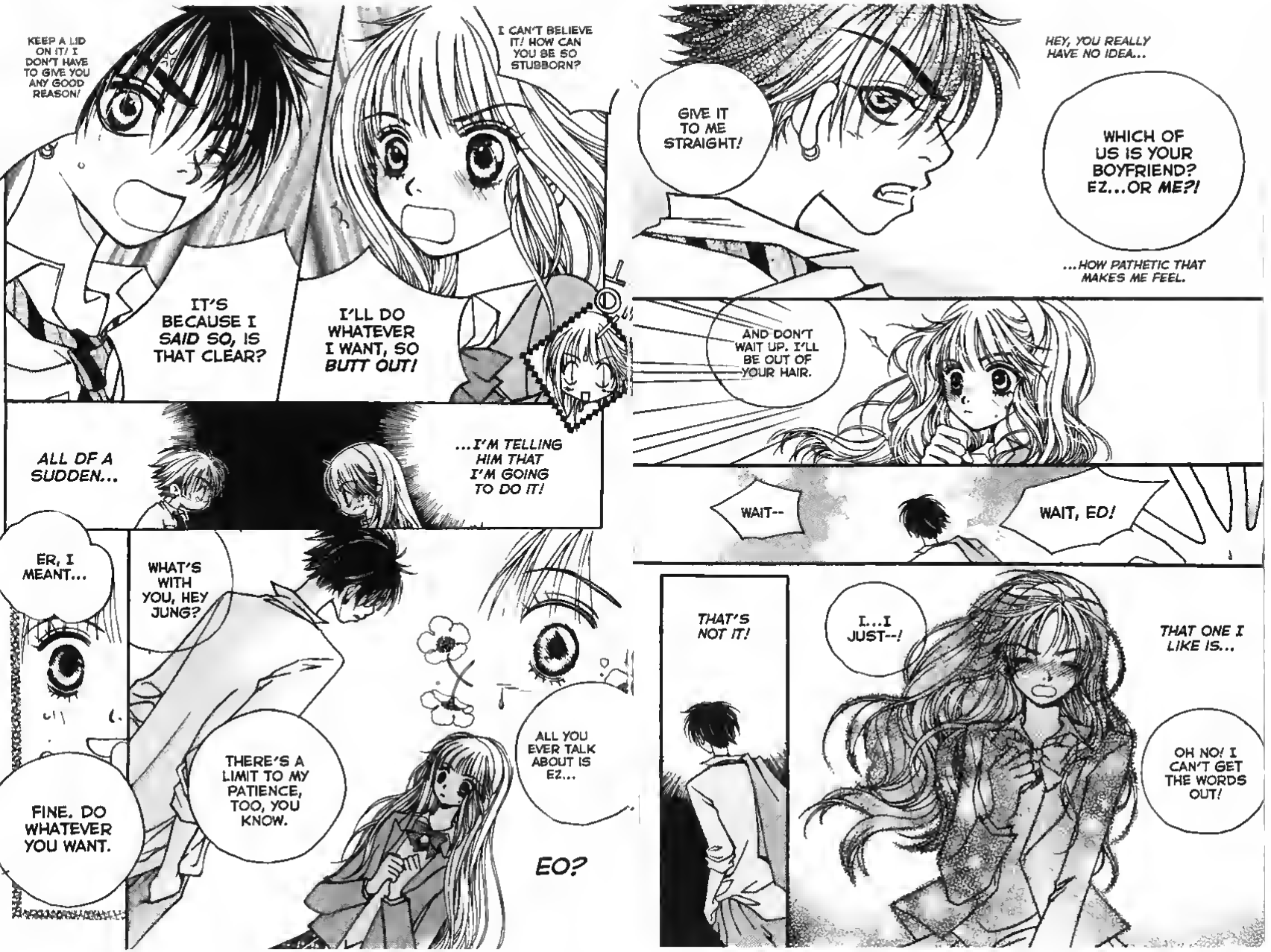
Chapter 6: The Happy Ending At Last

NOW WHERE COULD HE BE?
THEN...
THERE HE IS!
FIRST, I'LL APOLOGIZE.
EO!
LOOK WHAT I HAVE!
I BROUGHT ARTICLES ABOUT WRESTLING THAT I FOUND ON THE INTERNET YESTERDAY.
Angry
EO, ARE YOU UPSET?
Gulp
OH, SO NOW YOU'RE GETTING PISSY LIKE A LITTLE GIRL, HUH?
TALK ABOUT IMMATURE!
IMMATURE?
I-IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO GO LIKE THIS!
EO
Oh no!
I'M SORRY.. ABOUT YESTERDAY..
BUT THE FACT THAT YOUR DREAM IS TO BE A HAIRY WRESTLER...
Too much hair is gross!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH WRESTLERS?!
YOU THINK THAT EVERYTHING I DO IS IMMATURE, IS THAT IT?!

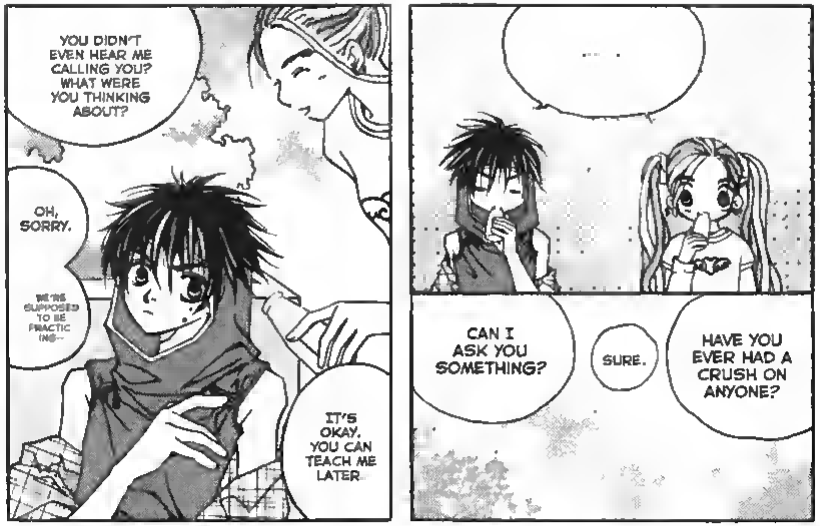
FINE, THEN I'M SORRY...
...THAT YOU HAVE TO DATE AN IMMATURE KID LIKE ME!!
A lover's quarrel?
YO. ALREADY AT IT FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?
E--
EZ?!
HOW'S IT GOING?
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE IN HIGH SCHOOL?!
← High School Uniform
TRUST ME, IT WON'T EVEN TAKE A MINUTE.
I have to talk to Hey about something
THAT'S RIGHT!
THE SCHOOLS ARE RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER
Same affiliation
COMPLETELY FORGOT
YOU WANT SOME?
HUH? OH, YES, PLEASE...
Jelly
AH, I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT SWEET FLAVOR, EVEN AFTER GRADUATION.
Back when I was in junior high
I'M COOL. COUNT ME OUT.

WAIT, ISN'T THAT CANDY?!
YOU'RE NOT EVEN A KID!
EZ...LIKES JELLY?
OH MY... JUST LIKE A CHILD...
No logic
SO INNOCENT...
What's with the mighty eyes?!
Shook
Even the way they eat looks like a commercial
SO, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SAY?
Hmph!
At a loss for words again
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU SEE, THE THING IS...
HUH?!
ME...
...IN A MUSIC VIDEO?!
AFTER I SHOWED THEM YOUR PICTURE, EVERYONE AGREED! I THINK THIS IS THE IMAGE WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
BUT, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
THIS TIME, WE JUST NEED A NEW FACE. NOT A PROFESSIONAL OR ANYTHING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WANNA GIVE IT A TRY?
HUH? BUT...

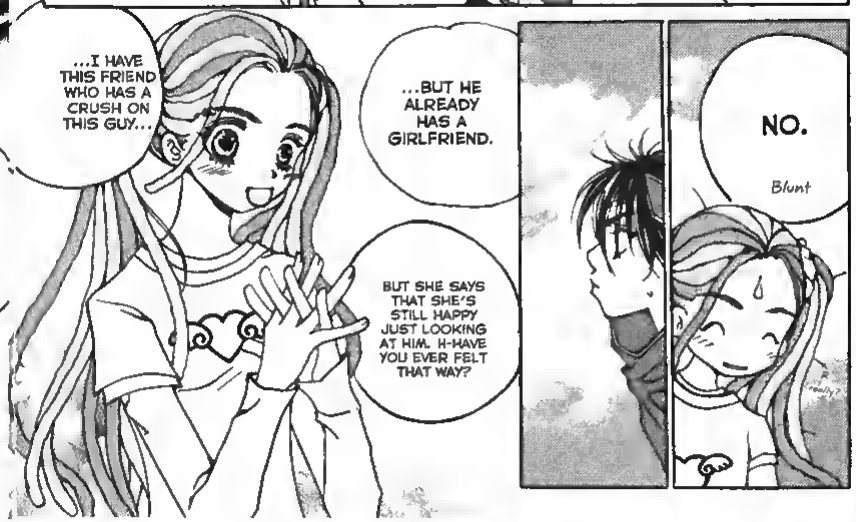
EITHER WAY, I GAVE YOU THE MESSAGE SO I'LL BE ON MY WAY. OH, AND EO? TRY CONVINCING HER, WOULD YOU?
UH...
We skipped class
Ding dong
WE'LL SEE. BUT YOU KNOW HOW HEY DOESN'T LIKE TO BE IN THE LIMELIGHT. DON'T CROSS YOUR FINGERS YET.
NO WAY IN HELL! HEY STARRING IN EZ'S MUSIC VIDEO?
ASKING ME FOR HELP IS NO DIFFERENT THAN ASKING A CAT TO WATCH THE FISH MARKET!
NO MATTER WHAT, I HAVE TO STOP HER!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, HEY?
WHY...
Yipe!
...IS SHE BLUSHING?!
DON'T TELL ME... YOU'RE ACTUALLY CONSIDERING IT.
HUH? NO, NO!
I wouldn't dare
I WAS JUST THINKING... HOW IT FEELS LIKE A DREAM...
A MUSIC VIDEO WITH EZ?
SOMEBODY PINCH ME!
IT'S SOMETHING I'VE DREAMT OF ONCE OR TWICE, BUT...
...I THINK I WOULD FAINT IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED.
WHAT IS THIS, HER WHOLE FACE IS FLUSHED!
THAT TOTALLY MEANS SHE WANTS TO DO IT!
NOT THAT I WANT TO DO IT...
I WAS JUST... THINKING.
I'M AGAINST IT.
WHY?!
IT'S JUST THAT...
BECAUSE YOU THINK I'M UGLY?
WHAT IS IT?! YOU HAVE TO TELL ME THE REASON!


KEEP A LID ON IT! I DON'T HAVE TO GIVE YOU ANY GOOD REASON!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! HOW CAN YOU BE SO STUBBORN?
IT'S BECAUSE I SAID SO, IS THAT CLEAR?
I'LL DO WHATEVER I WANT, SO BUTT OUT!
ALL OF A SUDDEN...
...I'M TELLING HIM THAT I'M GOING TO DO IT!
ER, I MEANT...
WHAT'S WITH YOU, HEY JUNG?
FINE. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
THERE'S A LIMIT TO MY PATIENCE, TOO, YOU KNOW.
ALL YOU EVER TALK ABOUT IS EZ...
EO?
GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT!
HEY, YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA...
WHICH OF US IS YOUR BOYFRIEND? EZ...OR ME?!
...HOW PATHETIC THAT MAKES ME FEEL.
AND DON'T WAIT UP. I'LL BE OUT OF YOUR HAIR.
WAIT--
WAIT, EO!
THAT'S NOT IT!
I...I JUST--!
THAT ONE I LIKE IS...
OH NO! I CAN'T GET THE WORDS OUT!

WHY?!
SO, EO, ABOUT THIS PART...
I'M THROUGH!
HE'S SCARING ME...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I SUGGESTED THAT WE BREAK UP!
EO?

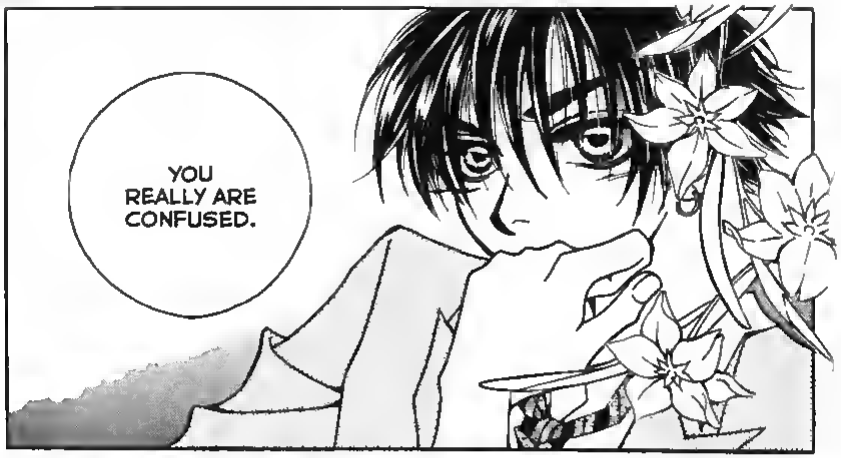

YOU DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ME CALLING YOU? WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
OH, SORRY.
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PRACTICING--
IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN TEACH ME LATER.
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
SURE.
HAVE YOU EVER HAD A CRUSH ON ANYONE?

NO, NO! I'M NOT SAYING I HAVE A CRUSH ON--
I'm not jumping to conclusions.
IT'S ABOUT MY FRIEND! YOU SEE...

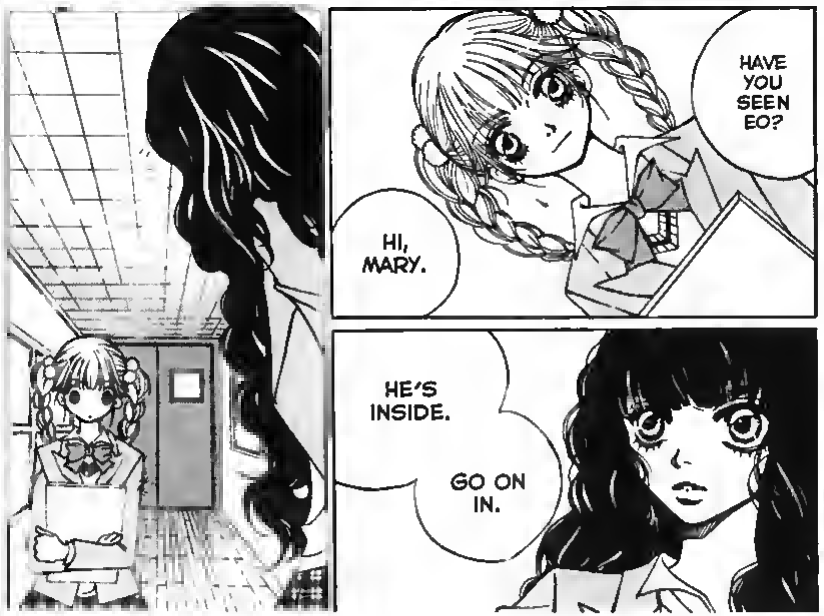

...I HAVE THIS FRIEND WHO HAS A CRUSH ON THIS GUY...
...BUT HE ALREADY HAS A GIRLFRIEND.
BUT SHE SAYS THAT SHE'S STILL HAPPY JUST LOOKING AT HIM. H-HAVE YOU EVER FELT THAT WAY?
NO.
Blunt

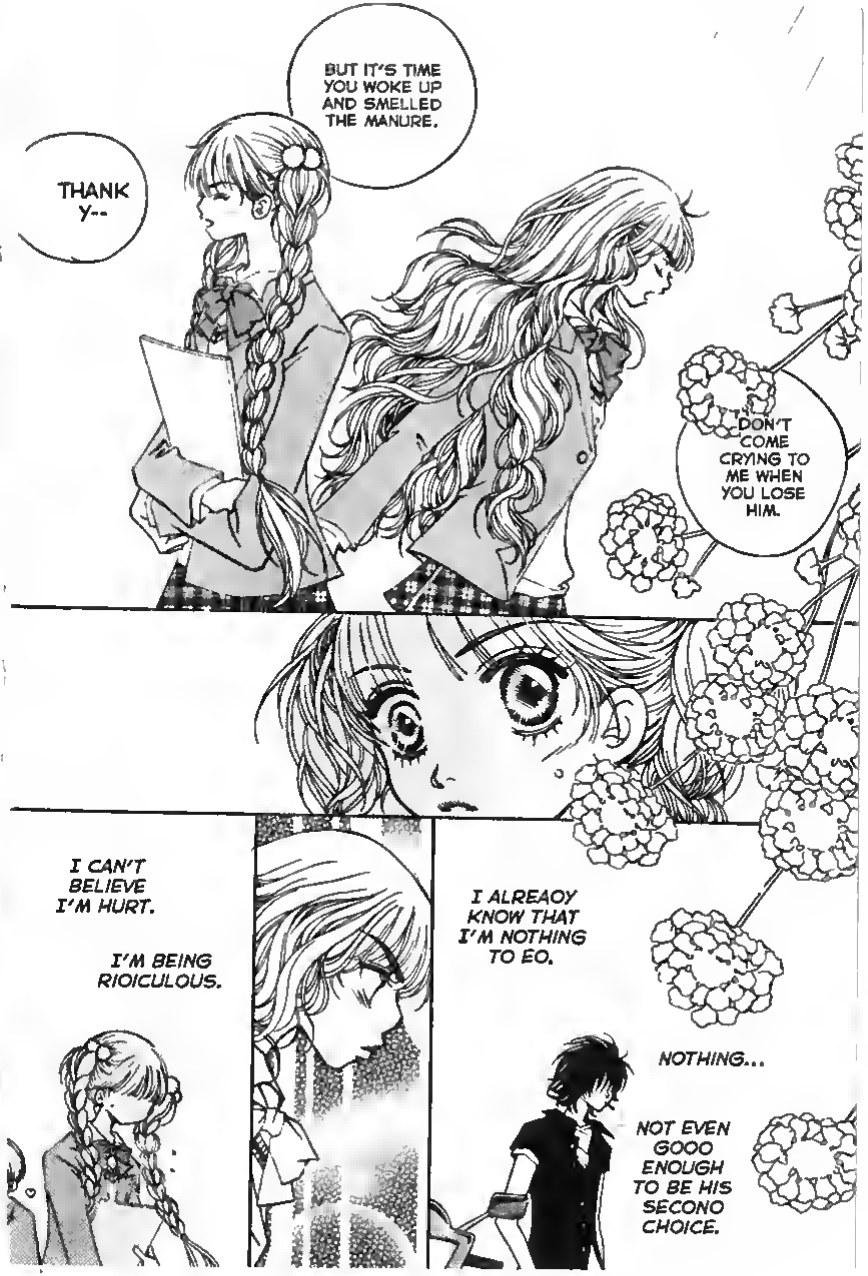
NEVER? NOT EVEN ONCE?
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY SETTLING WITH THAT?
MAYBE IT'S JUST ME, BUT...
...WHEN I LIKE SOMEONE, I START HAVING A LOT OF EXPECTATIONS.
SHE'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT. SHE'S THE ONLY ONE THAT I CARE ABOUT.
I CAN'T GET HER OUT OF MY HEAD!
I KNOW THAT IT'S THESE THOUGHTS THAT TORMENT HEY ALL THE TIME...
...BUT I CAN'T STOP THINKING THIS WAY.
DO YOU THINK IT'S TOO MUCH?
IS IT BECAUSE I'M STILL A LITTLE KID?
WOW, YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING ELSE.
YOU'RE REALLY POSSESSIVE, HUH?
YEAH, GUESS I AM.
I'M NOT EXACTLY THE MOST EASY PERSON TO GET ALONG WITH.
THANKS TO THAT...
...I END UP HURTING SOMEONE EVERYDAY.
I'M SORRY...
THE "CRUSH" I MENTIONED BEFORE?
THAT WAS YOU.

OH! BUT UH, DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN!
I WASN'T EXPECTING ANYTHING FROM YOU. I JUST...WANTED YOU TO KNOW.
SO...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
THIS REALLY IS PAINFUL.
WHO'D BE STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK THAT THEY COULD EVER BE HAPPY...
...JUST... WATCHING?
WHO?! THAT FREAK WHO GOES AROUND WITH HOLES IN HER EYEBROWS?!
IT'S CALLED A PIERCING.
SAME THING!
SO?!
WELL, IT WASN'T AS BAD AS I THOUGHT.
PLUNK
Don't you know that that's the beginning of cheating?
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT SHE SAID... THAT I FELT FOR.
WHAT ABOUT HEY?!
WHAT'S IT MATTER?
SHE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME ANYWAY.
EO, YOU...

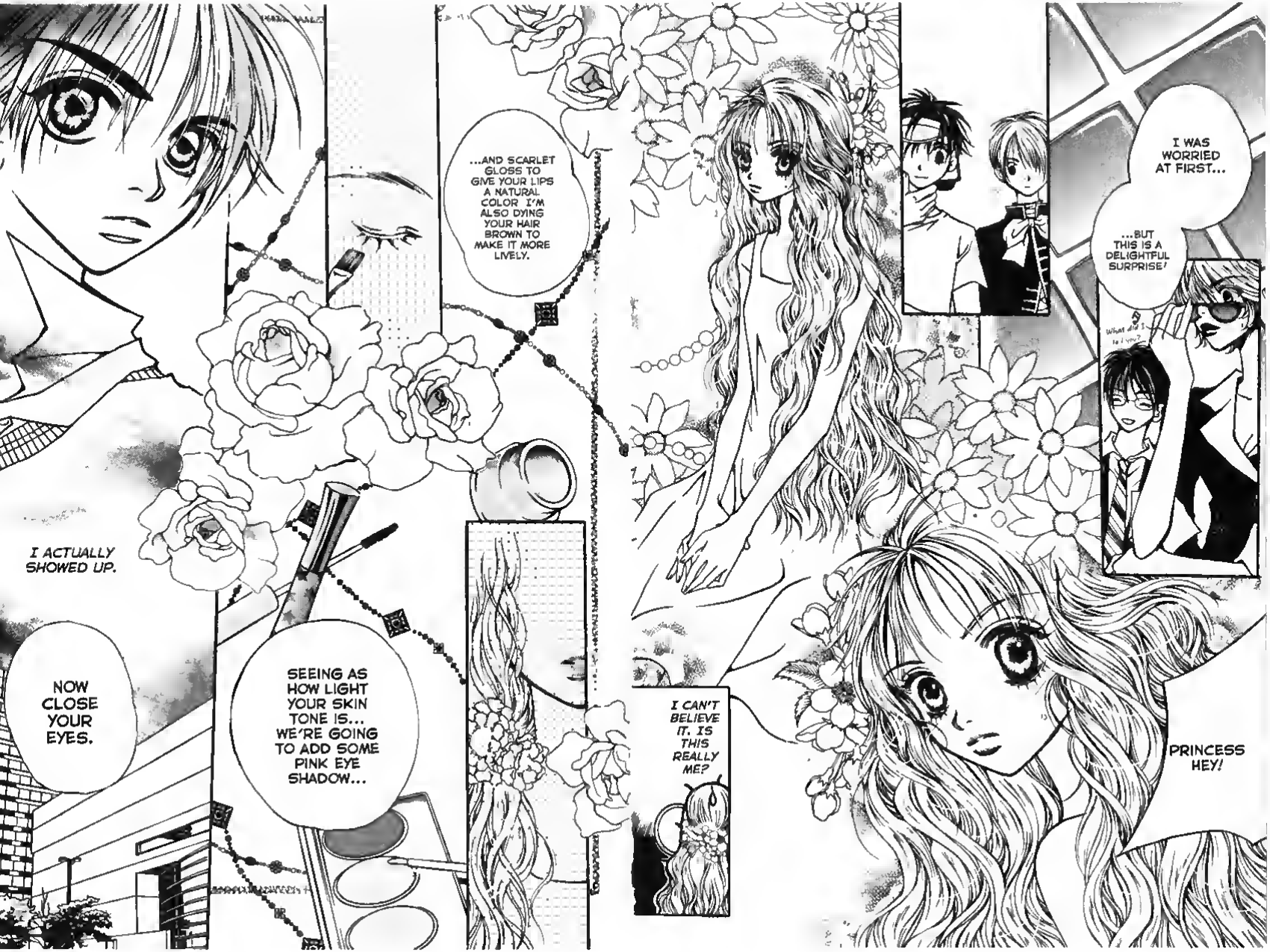

YOU REALLY ARE CONFUSED.

I CAN'T BELIEVE EO COULD LIKE SOMEONE OTHER THAN HEY.
THEN WHAT AM I?

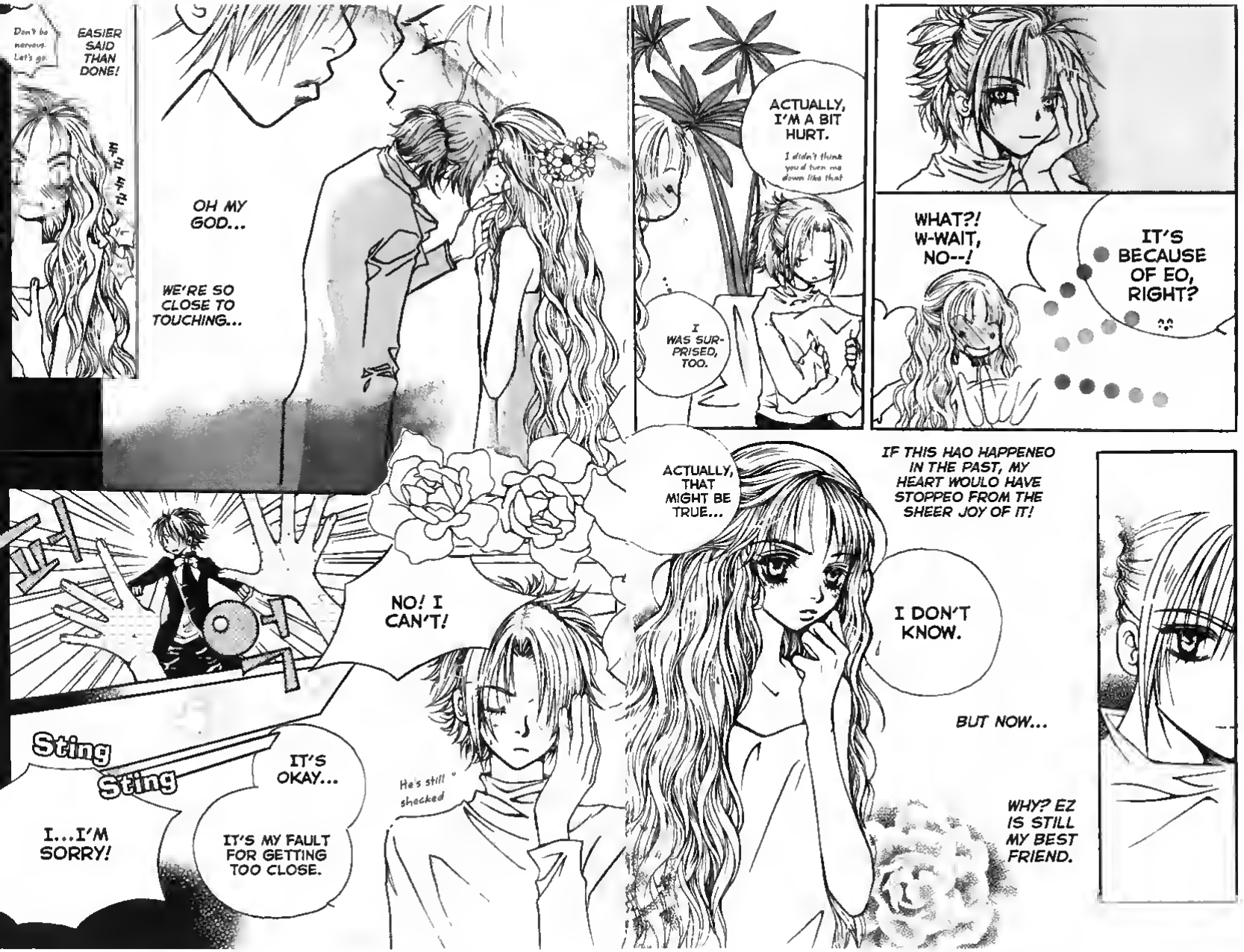

HAVE YOU SEEN EO?
HI, MARY.
HE'S INSIDE.
GO ON IN.

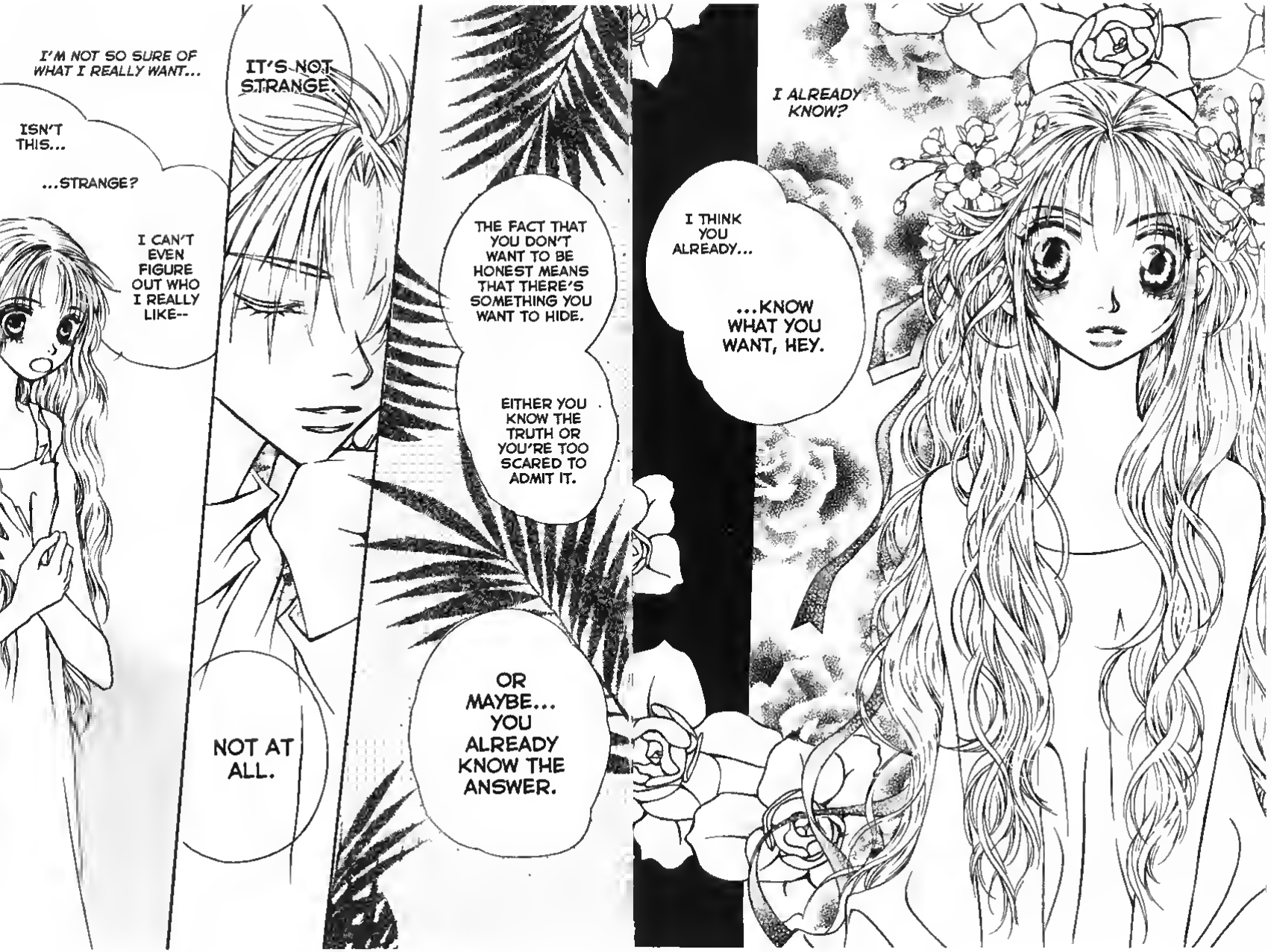

BUT IT'S TIME YOU WOKE UP AND SMELLED THE MANURE.
THANK Y--
DON'T COME CRYING TO ME WHEN YOU LOSE HIM.
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HURT.
I'M BEING RIDICULOUS.
I ALREADY KNOW THAT I'M NOTHING TO EO.
NOTHING...
NOT EVEN GOOD ENOUGH TO BE HIS SECOND CHOICE.

IS THAT OFFER FOR A RIDE STILL GOOD?
IF I HAD KNOWN...
...I SHOULD NEVER HAVE STAYED HIS FRIEND.
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING? IT'S WEIRDING ME OUT!
BECAUSE YOU'RE ON MY BIKE.
DON'T GET TOO AHEAD OF YOURSELF!
Sniff
DO YOU THINK I'D ACTUALLY DATE A PLAYER LIKE YOU?
Sniff
HE'S WARM.
...EO?
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY.


I ACTUALLY SHOWED UP.
NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES.
SEEING AS HOW LIGHT YOUR SKIN TONE IS... WE'RE GOING TO ADD SOME PINK EYE SHADOW...
...AND SCARLET GLOSS TO GIVE YOUR LIPS A NATURAL COLOR. I'M ALSO DYING YOUR HAIR BROWN TO MAKE IT MORE LIVELY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. IS THIS REALLY ME?
PRINCESS HEY!
I WAS WORRIED AT FIRST...
...BUT THIS IS A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE!
What did I do?

IT'S WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DREAMED OF.
SHALL WE GO?
BUT IT'S...
...ACTUALLY REAL.
A DREAM COME TRUE.
WITH EZ?!
A KISSING SCENE?
WHAT?!
No!
DON'T WORRY.
YOU WON'T ACTUALLY BE KISSING
THEN...
OH, RIGHT ...
CUT!


Don't be nervous. Let's go.
EASIER SAID THAN DONE!
두근두근
OH MY GOD...
WE'RE SO CLOSE TO TOUCHING...
ACTUALLY, I'M A BIT HURT.
I didn't think you'd turn me down like that
I WAS SURPRISED, TOO.
WHAT?! W-WAIT, NO--!
IT'S BECAUSE OF EO, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, THAT MIGHT BE TRUE...
IF THIS HAO HAPPENED IN THE PAST, MY HEART WOULD HAVE STOPPED FROM THE SHEER JOY OF IT!
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT NOW...
WHY? EZ IS STILL MY BEST FRIEND.
NO! I CAN'T!
He's still shocked
IT'S OKAY...
IT'S MY FAULT FOR GETTING TOO CLOSE.
I...I'M SORRY!
Sting
Sting

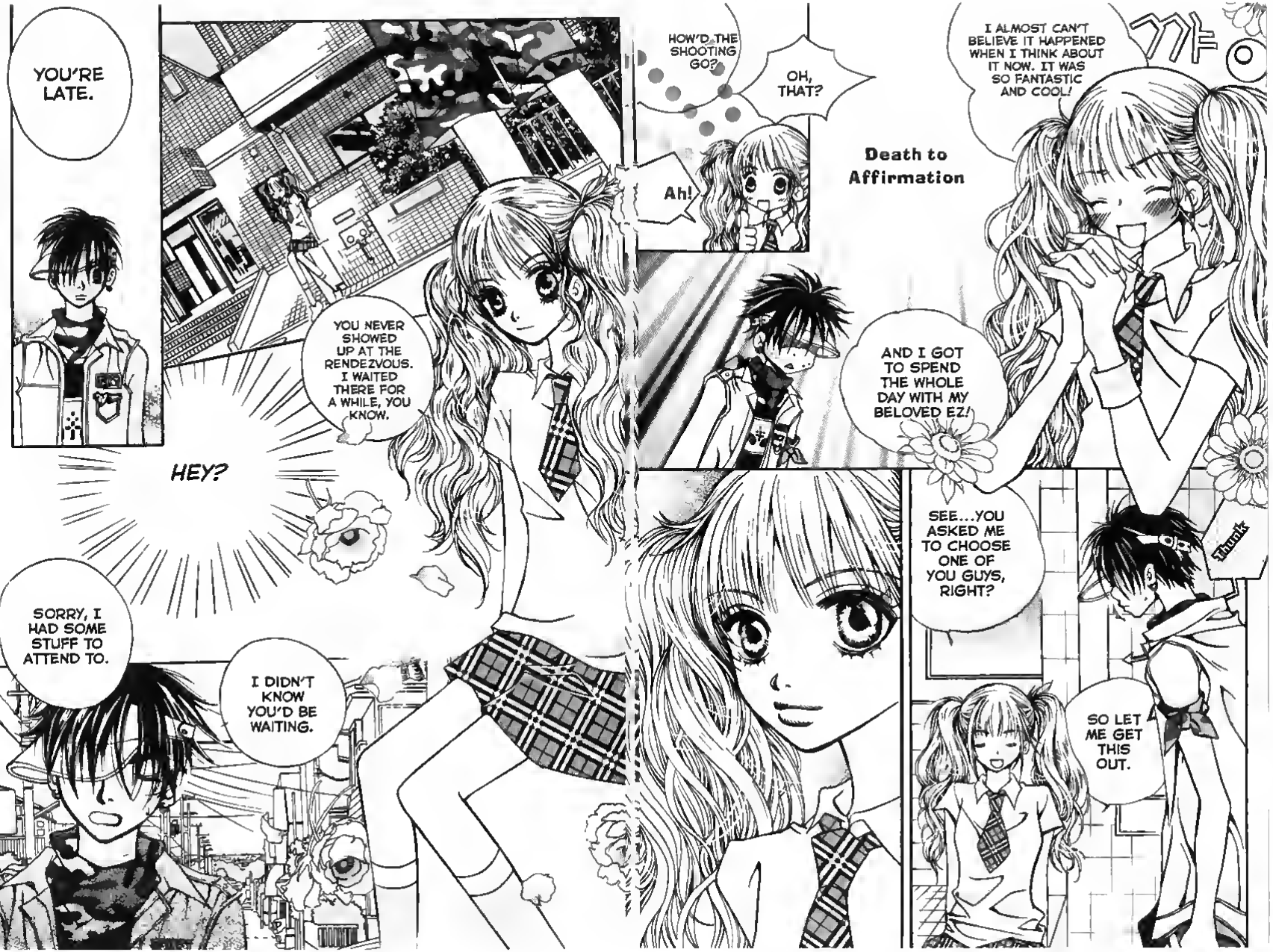

I'M NOT SO SURE OF WHAT I REALLY WANT...
ISN'T THIS...
...STRANGE?
I CAN'T EVEN FIGURE OUT WHO I REALLY LIKE--
IT'S NOT STRANGE.
NOT AT ALL.
THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HONEST MEANS THAT THERE'S SOMETHING YOU WANT TO HIDE.
EITHER YOU KNOW THE TRUTH OR YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO ADMIT IT.
OR MAYBE... YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER.
I ALREADY KNOW?
I THINK YOU ALREADY...
...KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, HEY.

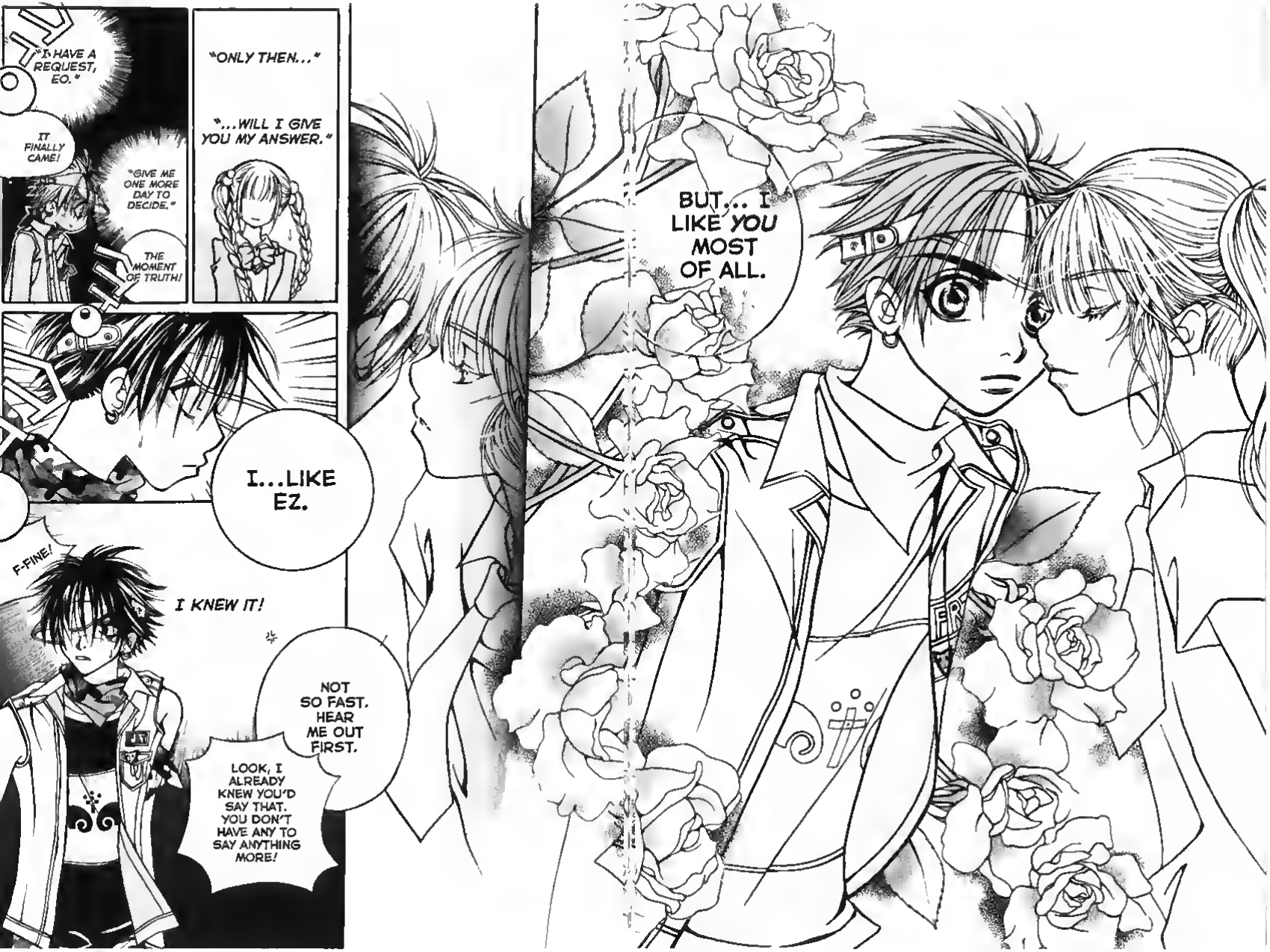
THE ONE I LIKE...
"I CAN'T STAND GIRLS..."
"...WHO FOLLOW CELEBRITIES AROUND LIKE DOGS!"
"ARE YOU HURT?"
EO?
GOOD JOB, EVERYONE!
My shes a little ball of energy
I am jealous
THANK YOU, EZ!
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND NOW.

I'M NOT GOING TO HESITATE ANY LONGER!
YOU LOOK UPSET.
HUH?
NO. I'M OKAY.

MM. TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IT FEELS AS IF I FREED A LITTLE BIRD THAT ONLY LOOKED PAST ME TOWARDS THE SKY.
I THINK YOU'RE USING THE WRONG METAPHOR.
What a loss
I'M SURE YOU'RE AWARE THAT IF YOU'D TRIED JUST A LITTLE HARDER...
...YOU TWO COULD'VE HOOKED UP.
YOU ACTUALLY LIKE HEY, RIGHT?
And I don't mean as just a fan.
THE LITTLE GIRL WHO ALWAYS STARED AT ME...
YEAH...
IF I'D STRETCHED OUT MY HANDS JUST A BIT MORE, WE MIGHT HAVE TOUCHED EACH OTHER.

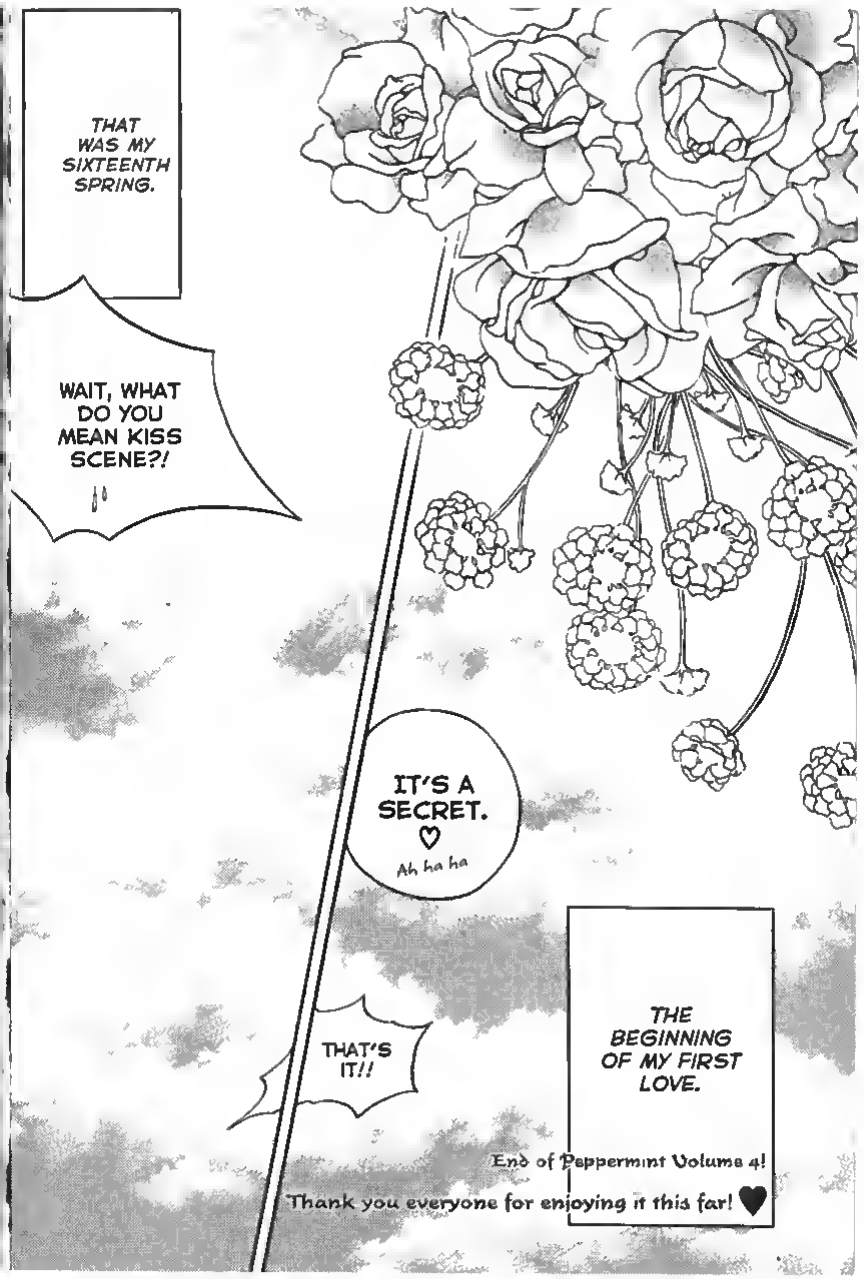
I THINK I HAVE A PROBLEM, YOUNG.
I'M THE ONE WHO...
...TURNED THAT BITTERNESS...
...INTO LONGING.
DON'T BE TOO BUMMED.
OH...
SEEING A PLAYER LOOK SINCERE? NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SHE'S ACTUALLY SMILING.

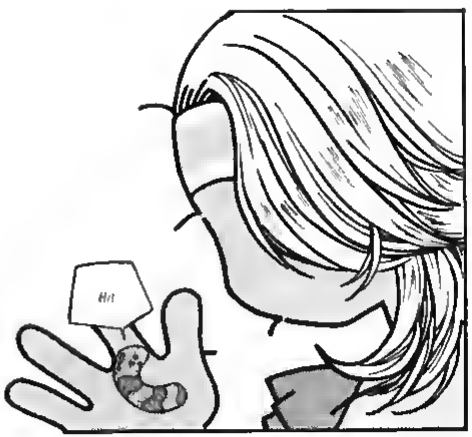

YOU'RE LATE.
HEY?
YOU NEVER SHOWED UP AT THE RENDEZVOUS. I WAITED THERE FOR A WHILE, YOU KNOW.
SORRY, I HAD SOME STUFF TO ATTEND TO.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D BE WAITING.
HOW'D THE SHOOTING GO?
OH, THAT?
Ah!
Death to Affirmation
I ALMOST CAN'T BELIEVE IT HAPPENED WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT NOW. IT WAS SO FANTASTIC AND COOL!
AND I GOT TO SPEND THE WHOLE DAY WITH MY BELOVED EZ!
SEE...YOU ASKED ME TO CHOOSE ONE OF YOU GUYS, RIGHT?
thunk
SO LET ME GET THIS OUT.

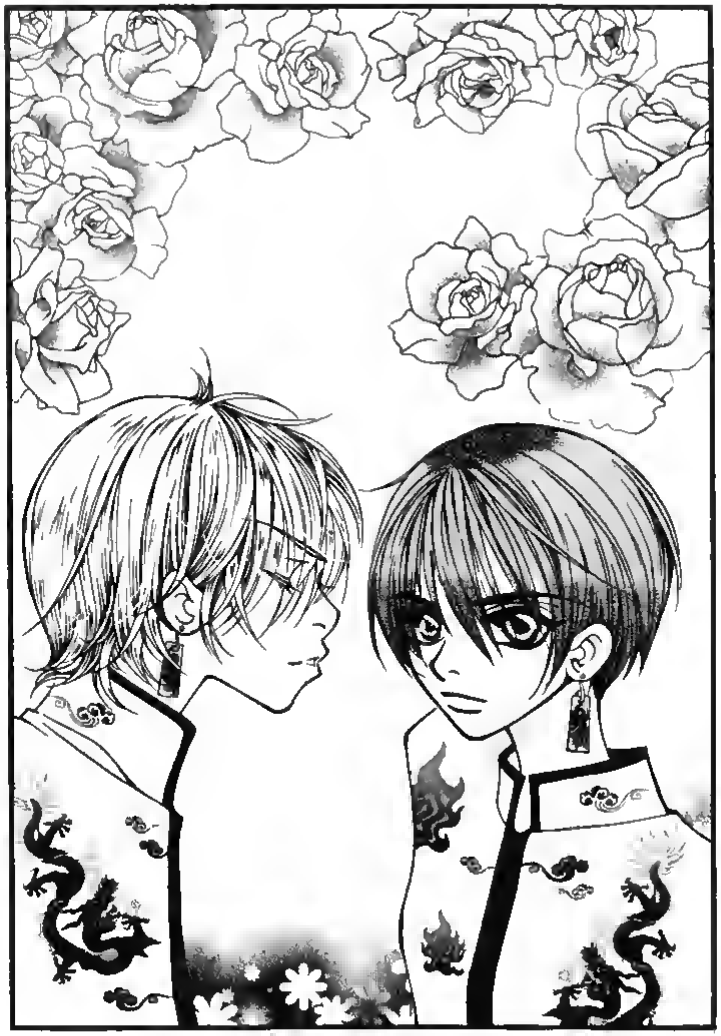

"I HAVE A REQUEST, EO."
IT FINALLY CAME!
"GIVE ME ONE MORE DAY TO DECIDE."
THE MOMENT OF TRUTH!
"ONLY THEN..."
"...WILL I GIVE YOU MY ANSWER."
I...LIKE EZ.
F-FINE!
I KNEW IT!
NOT SO FAST. HEAR ME OUT FIRST.
LOOK, I ALREADY KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT. YOU DON'T HAVE ANY TO SAY ANYTHING MORE!
BUT... I LIKE YOU MOST OF ALL.

IT'S OKAY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE EMBARRASSED.
IT REALLY IS DIFFERENT...
...WHEN IT COMES TO THE ONE YOU LIKE.
That came out of nowhere
HEY...?
IS THIS WHAT LOVE IS?
I HAD NO IDEA IT'D FEEL SO GOOD TO EXPRESS IT.
I'M HUNGRY.
BUY ME SOMETHING YUMMY. ♡
EZ TAUGHT ME THAT DURING THE MUSIC VIDEO'S KISS SCENE. AND NOW I SEE HE WAS RIGHT.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN...FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
WHERE DID IT FIRST START? WHEN ED SAVED ME FROM NAOMI'S CLIQUE? OR THE BIRTHDAY INCIDENT?
WOW, HEY'S BOLDER THAN I THOUGHT.
Ooh!
WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE FILMING...
HUH?
WAIT A SEC...

WHAT KISS SCENE?
Isn't that what she said just now?


THAT WAS MY SIXTEENTH SPRING.
WAIT, WHAT DO YOU MEAN KISS SCENE?!
IT'S A SECRET. ♡
Ah, ha ha
THAT'S IT!!
THE BEGINNING OF MY FIRST LOVE.
End of Peppermint Volume 4!
Thank you everyone for enjoying it this far! ♥





Special Side Story First Love

◊ E.Z's Story ◊

First Love

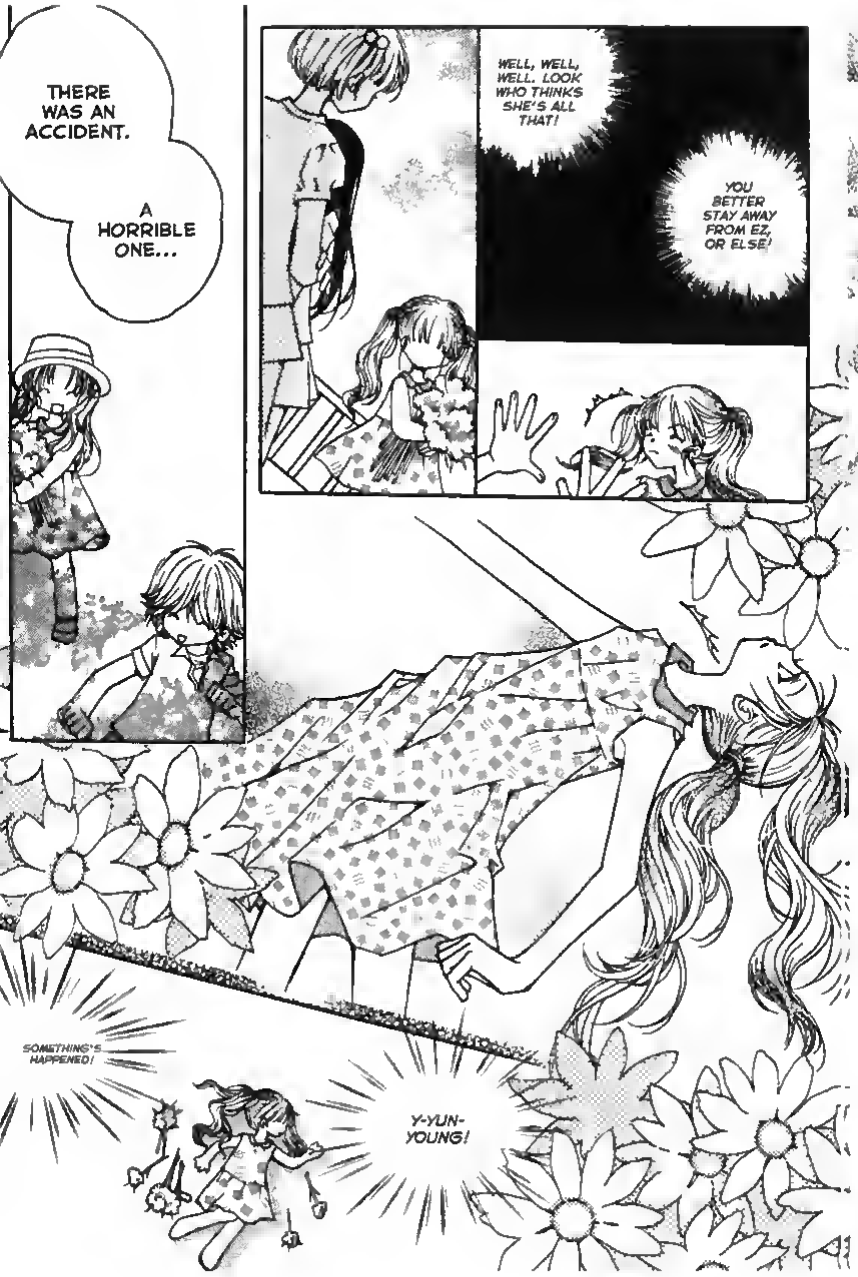
WAIT.

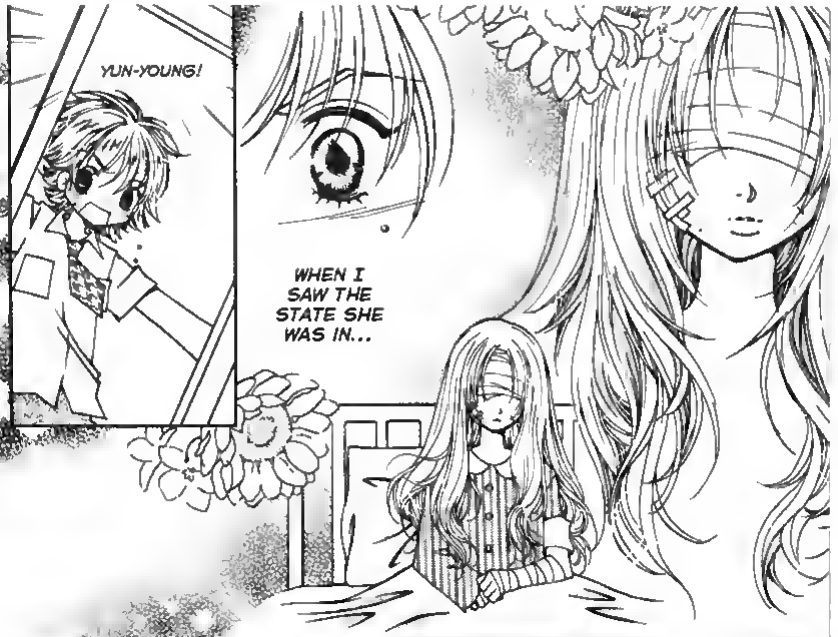
I'M CURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING

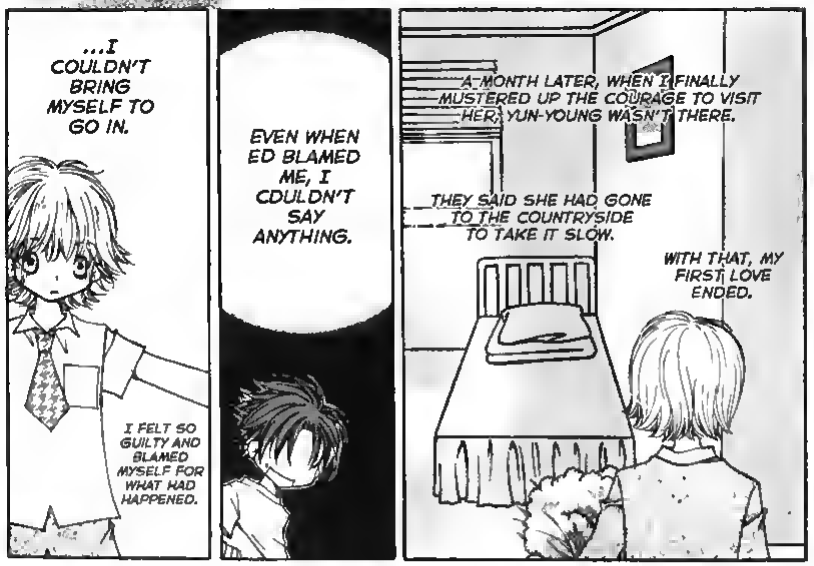
WHO WAS EZ'S FIRST LOVE?

WHAT, AREN'T YOU CURIOUS, TOO?!
NOPE.
HM, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
Makes me sick
EVERYONE ELSE HERE IS OBVIOUS. ED, YOURS WAS PROBABLY HEY.
MY FIRST LOVE WAS ED, AND HEY'S FIRST LOVE WAS EZ. BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHO EZ'S FIRST LOVE WAS.
SPLURT
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS, ED?
I...I DON'T KNOW...
DON'T YOU DARE--!
THAT'S AN EASY ONE!
IT WAS BACK WHEN I WAS NINE AND ED WAS STILL ONLY SIX.

SHE WAS A WEAK GIRL, BUT ALWAYS SMILING...
...AND MAKING EVERYONE AROUND HER HAPPY.
YES, THAT KIND OF GIRL.
"Warning This is not Hey
OF COURSE, MY BROTHER AND I WERE COMPLETELY HEAD OVER HEELS FOR HER.
IT WAS PRETTY CRAZY BACK THEN. REMEMBER, ED?
WE EVEN FOUGHT FOR HER.
ACK!
OH NO!
THIS IS THE END FOR ME!
WOW! THEN WHAT HAPPENED? ♡

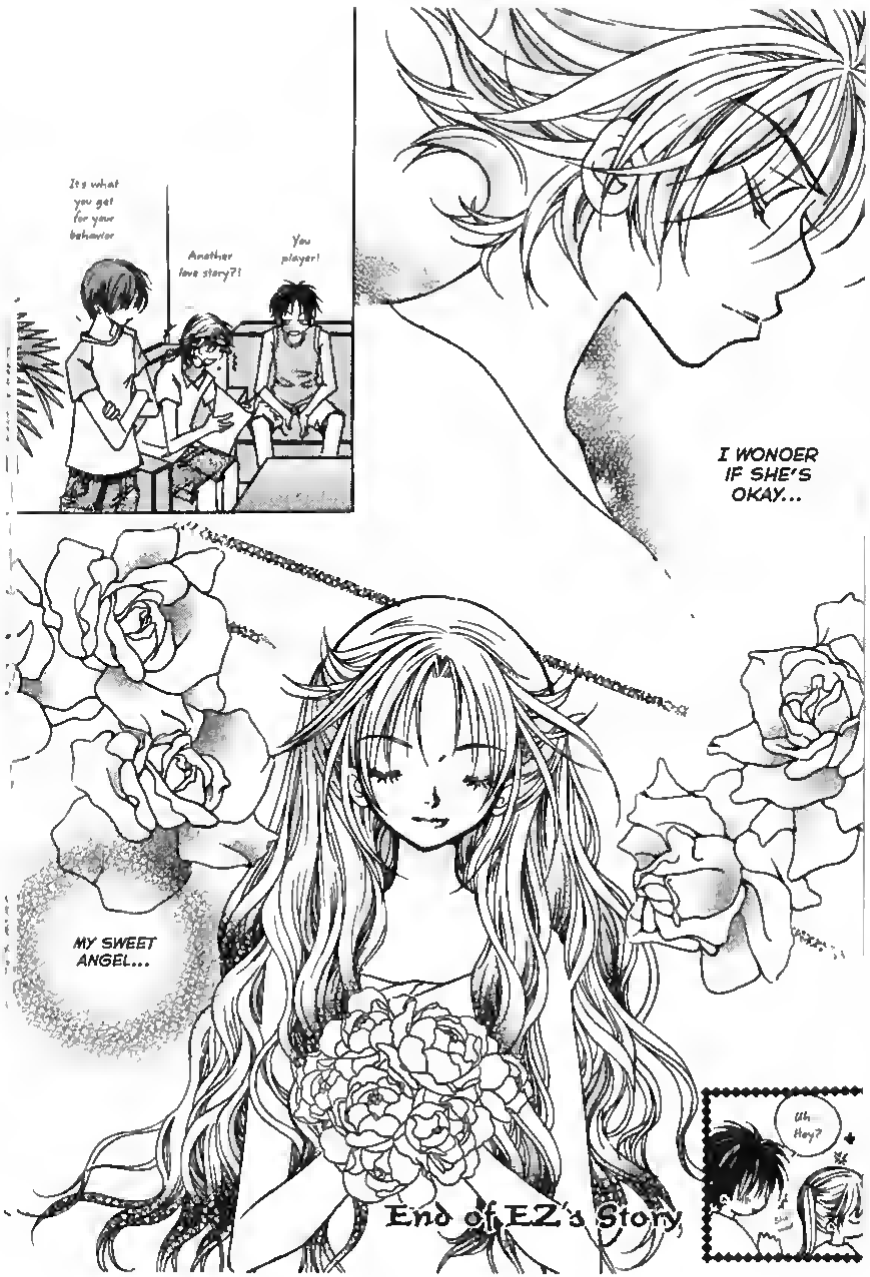

THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT.
A HORRIBLE ONE...
WELL, WELL, WELL. LOOK WHO THINK'S SHE'S ALL THAT!
YOU BETTER STAY AWAY FROM ED, OR ELSE!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!
Y-YUN-YOUNG!


YUN-YOUNG!
WHEN I SAW THE STATE SHE WAS IN...


...I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO IN.
I FELT SO GUILTY AND BLAMED MYSELF FOR WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
EVEN WHEN ED BLAMED ME, I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
A MONTH LATER, WHEN I FINALLY MUSTERED UP THE COURAGE TO VISIT HER, YUN-YOUNG WASN'T THERE.
THEY SAID SHE HAD GONE TO THE COUNTRYSIDE TO TAKE IT SLOW.
WITH THAT, MY FIRST LOVE ENDED.

I THINK I FINALLY UNDERSTAND...
...WHY YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND!
WHY IS THAT?
YOU'RE AFRAID OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENING AGAIN, RIGHT?
UH RIGHT... MAYBE THAT'S IT...
HEY, EZ!
THERE'S AN ARTICLE ABOUT YOU IN TEEN MAGAZINE.

IT'S SUCH A DISTANT MEMORY, I'O ALMOST FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT IT.

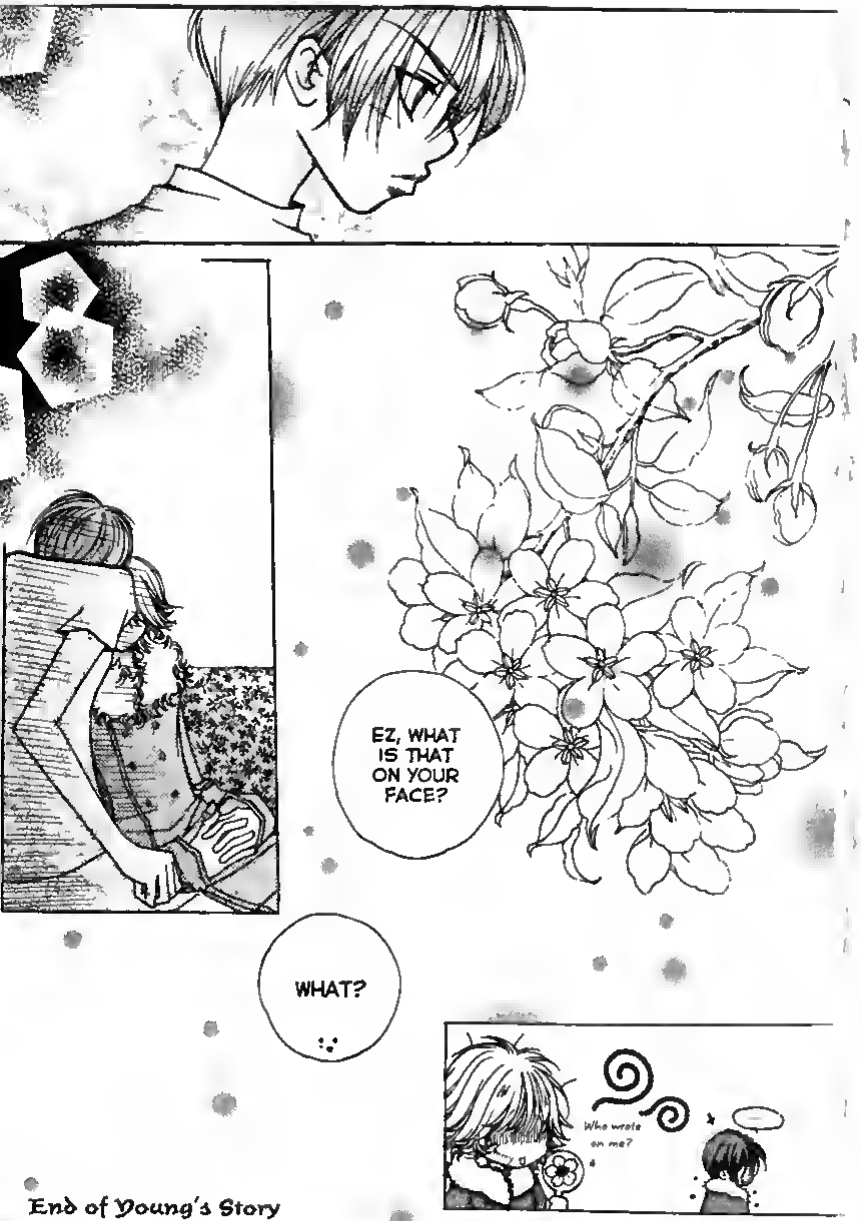


End of EZ's Story

◊ Young's Story ◊
First Love
IT'S ALL A LIE.
WHAT?
AND IT WAS HER LEG, NOT HER EYES! SHE FELL FROM THE THIRD FLOOR, HOW COULD SHE HAVE HURT HER EYES LIKE THAT? THAT LYING CHEAT... ALL THAT CRAP SOUNDS LIKE IT WAS RIGHT OUT A MOVIE! HOW'D IT GO AGAIN...? HE SHOWS UP WITH SOME FLOWERS, AS THOUGH THAT'D MAKE EVERYTHING BETTER?! POOR ME WAS SITTING THERE DAY AFTER DAY, HOPING HE WOULD RETURN. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID? THE MINUTE HE SAW MY FACE...
EZ!
HE RAN AWAY JUST LIKE THAT AND NEVER CAME BACK.
I'M SEEING EZ IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT NOW. ♡
IT'S A HEARTBREAKING LOVE STORY... DON'T YOU THINK?
ABOUT WHAT HE SAID?
THE BROKEN BONES I COULD HANDLE. BUT A BROKEN HEART?
UH, THEN THAT MEANS...
EZ

YOUNG IS EZ'S ANGEL?!
AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D HEARD IT ALL!
WHAT?
They made up
EO'S FIRST LOVE WAS YOUNG?
MANAGER, WHERE'S EZ?
IN THE OFFICE.
EZ.
ABOUT TODAY'S INTERVIEW...
SLEEPING ON THE JOB?

I WASN'T PLANNING THINGS TO TURN OUT THIS WAY IN THE BEGINNING.
THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO MAKE THE AUDITION AND THEN CRUSH HIM.
Grr!
BUT...
Ha ha ha
NO MATTER HOW BADLY I TALKED TO HIM, HE KEPT FOLLOWING ME AROUND
Is he an idiot?
I NEVER WOULD HAVE IMAGINED THAT THINGS WOULD END UP THIS WAY.



End of Young's Story

Author's Corner

Eun

Jin

ALTHOUGH I GET REPRIMANDED AGAIN AND AGAIN, DRAWING CAT FANGS ON ED IS OH SO ENTERTAINING. AND HEY'S DOUBLE PARTED HAIR TOO... I THINK I'LL MISS THOSE VERY MUCH.

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